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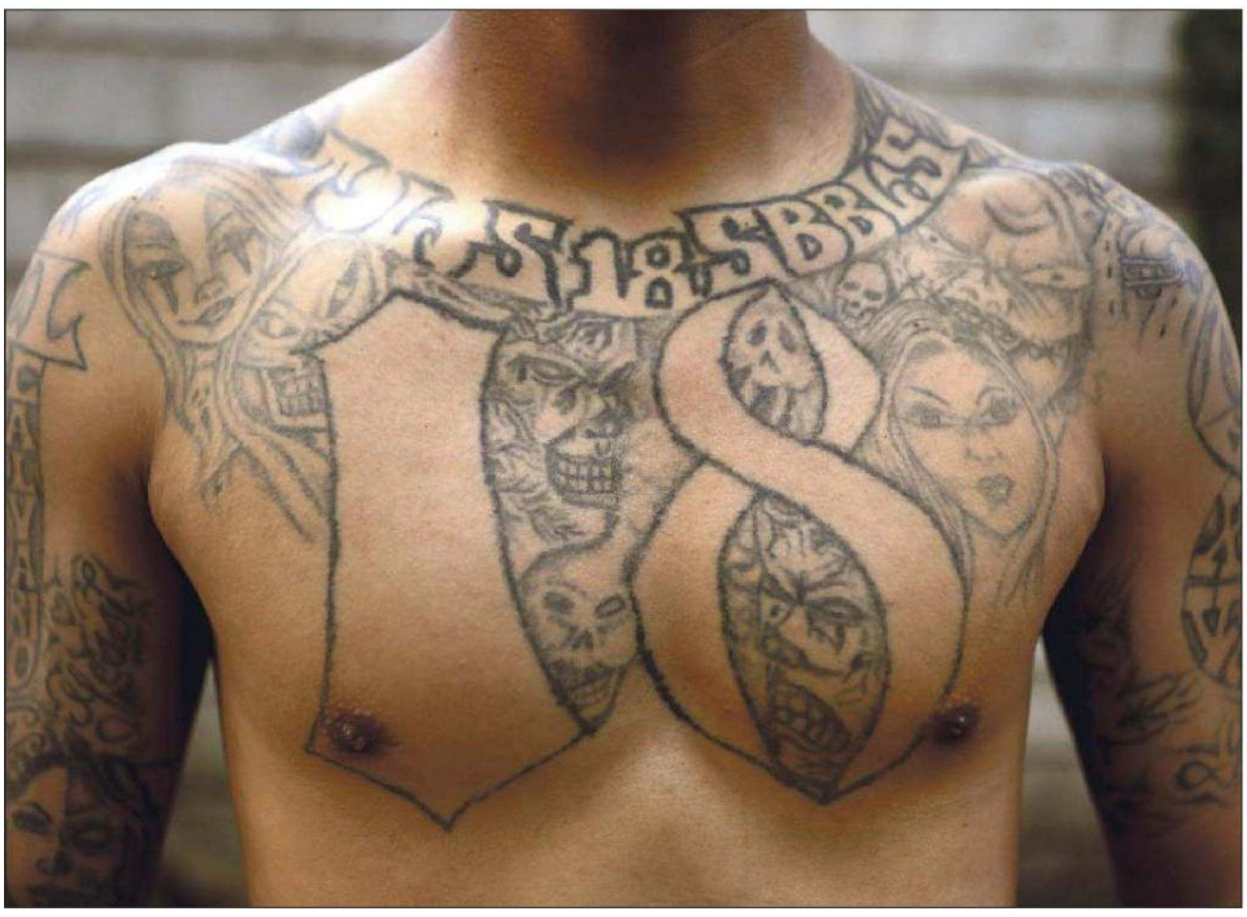


Photographs by Gary Coronado Los Angeles Times

AFTER getting help in an evangelical program, a gang member changed his life in Santa Ana, El Salvador.

Freed by the church, imprisoned by politics

Gang members turn to evangelical pastors for rehabilitation, but then are netted in El Salvador's crackdown on L.A.-born criminal organizations

By Leila Miller
REPORTING FROM SAN SALVADOR

The MS-13 and Barrio 18 gangs fought on the street outside Eben-ezer Baptist Church for years. Neighbors lost children. Pastor Nelson Moz led prayer services over the crackle of gunshots.

When a young man just out of prison came to Moz in 2012, saying he'd found God and wanted to leave his gang, the pastor agreed to help. Moz put a mattress in his church office so the budding evangelical could stay out of the gang's path.

Word soon spread, and others seeking to abandon their criminal lives started showing up at the church, in a working-class San Salvador neighborhood. Mattresses crowded the floor, eventually replaced by bunk beds. The men, covered in gang tattoos, made pastries and garlic bread out of a makeshift bakery in the church's basement. They walked gang neighborhoods, preaching the Gospel through megaphones.

Twenty-five men at a time stayed at the church. Dozens more filtered through, seeking redemption.

Last spring, it all came to an abrupt halt.

Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele declared a crackdown on gangs, directing lawmakers to pass a state of emergency suspending some constitutional rights. Police started arresting anyone who might be connected to a gang, including former members in rehabilitation programs such as Moz's.

Bukele's crackdown is a hit with his compatriots. With more than 67,000 people arrested and a sharp drop in homicides, Salvadorans today

[See **El Salvador,** A4]

FRANCISCA de Jesus Rivas weeps for her imprisoned husband, José Elvis Reynoza, pictured with her at right. Reynoza broke ties with a gang after he began attending church.

A TIMES INVESTIGATION

Lawyer used justice reform to lift inmates' families' hopes

Desperate relatives paid dearly in an often futile effort to free them

By Harriet Ryan

When California enacted landmark criminal justice reforms several years ago, inmates and their families saw a chance at freedom.

Aaron Spolin saw a business opportunity.

After the laws went into effect in 2019, the then-33-year-old attorney incorporated a law firm in West Los Angeles and began marketing legal services to the incarcerated and their loved ones.

Spolin, a Princeton-educated former McKinsey consultant, bought up online search terms so that people googling the laws saw ads touting the firm's expertise. He mailed pitch letters directly to some of the state's 100,000 prisoners, introducing himself as a former prosecutor now "in the top 1% among California criminal lawyers" and informing them they might be eligible for "sentence shortening under various new laws."

Nearly 2,000 individuals signed on with Spolin, according to the online resume of a former office manager. He became a celebrity inside prisons, his name passed around in exercise yards from Folsom to Calipatria, and in Facebook support groups for wives and children. Families of limited

[See **Lawyer,** A10]

Aaron Spolin

SPOLIN denied exploiting inmates and families.

Advertisements raise questions

Spolin calls himself a "top-ranked habeas attorney." Where's the evidence? **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Small-town mayor ascends in House

How did Pete Aguilar, the former leader of Redlands, become one of Congress' most powerful Democrats?

By Benjamin Oreskes

Rep. Pete Aguilar felt the threat rising.

As the House prepared to confirm Joe Biden as the nation's next president on Jan. 6, 2021, and put an end to Donald Trump's false claim that the election was rigged, Aguilar had a great view of the doors Capitol security would barricade to ward off the rioting insurrectionists.

Just before he left the chamber floor and fled for safety with the rest of House leadership, Aguilar scratched in a little red notebook he had picked up on a trip to Peru something that many members and congressional staff felt that day.

"I'm a little scared."

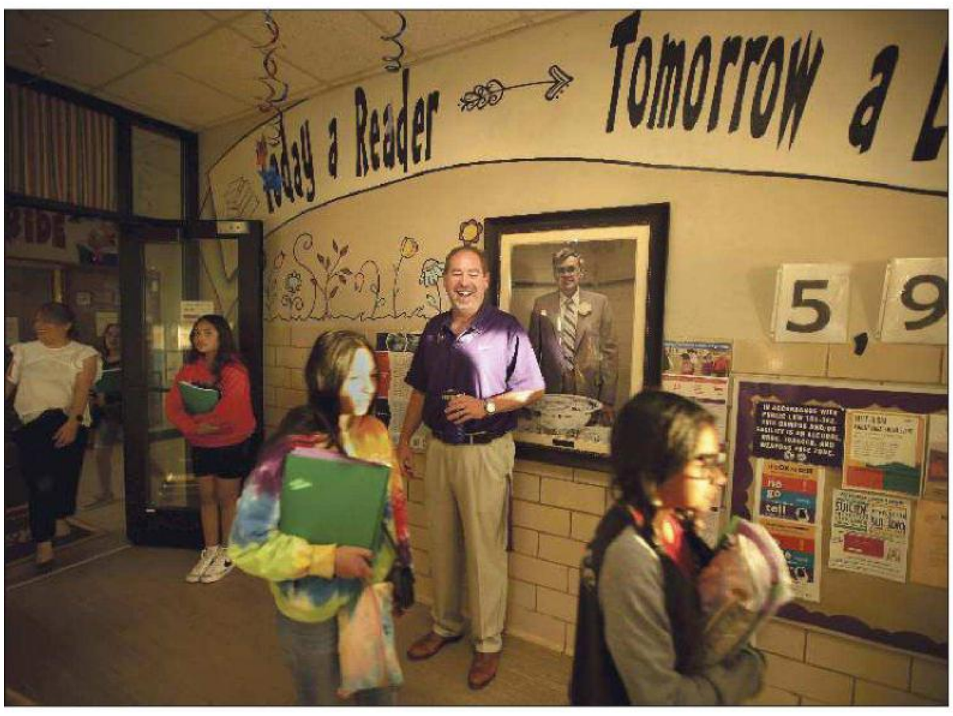
The Yucaipa native already was a rising star in the Democratic Party and climbing up the leadership ranks. That infamous day supercharged his ascent, first with an appointment to the House committee formed to investigate the attack on the Capitol and then with his election as chair of the House Democratic Caucus. Aguilar is now the third-highest-ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives.

How the former Red-

[See **Aguilar,** A13]

Say a prayer for Texas' public schools

Republicans are pitching voucher programs to combat 'woke agenda'



Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

BRIC TURNER, superintendent of Meadow Independent School District, doesn't buy assurances that a voucher program wouldn't affect public school budgets.

By Noah Bierman

MEADOW, Texas — Dozens of public school students spend their lunchtime with a guitar-playing Baptist minister, bowing their heads in prayer under a tree by the playground. English classes read Shakespeare and Steinbeck, avoiding works that might draw them into contemporary controversies. Most parents consent to corporal punishment for misbehaving students, though the superintendent says he rarely swats kids with the paddle.

This tiny district in west Texas is hardly a hub of liberal indoctrination.

Yet Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, is hoping that fear of a "radical woke agenda" in places like this will help him secure a long-elusive goal: a voucher-style program that would award

[See **Texas,** A8]

Viktoria Cichoń For The Times

DISNEYLAND DETAILED

Our great big (highly specific) guide goes in depth to help you plan your happiest visit yet — including how to propose. **WEEKEND, L1**

School book bans on rise in GOP states

Group warns of nearly 30% more incidents as conservatives target materials on LGBTQ, racial issues. **NATION, A6**

Weather
Mostly sunny; cooler.
L.A. Basin: 77/57. **B10**

U.S. Embassy staff evacuated

In embattled Sudan, the American military has relocated all of the workers, President Biden says. **WORLD, A3**

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PERSPECTIVES

Love it or hate it, bailout of SVB won't cost taxpayers a cent

Critics of U.S. response to Silicon Valley Bank's collapse are wrong to say it's being funded by average Joes

MICHAEL HILTZIK

What's the dirtiest word in financial policy?

My vote goes to "bailout." The term evokes giveaways to the most undeserving of fat cats, people who accept "responsibility" for financial crises as long as that doesn't involve punishment.

Bailouts exemplify the long dishonorable principle of privatizing profits and socializing losses — that is, we're going to mulct the consumer for every cent of black ink but stick it to the taxpayer when our own mistakes put us in a hole.

The perennial issue has bubbled up again in connection with the government response in recent weeks to the collapses of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank.

In those cases, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. acted to guarantee the full deposit accounts of the banks' customers even beyond its standard insurance limit of $250,000 per depositor. As it happened, the vast majority of deposits at both banks — 88% at SVB and 90% at Signature, according to the FDIC — were in accounts exceeding that limit.

That's the aspect of the bank rescues that has drawn the focus of their critics, who demand to know who will ultimately pay the bill. The FDIC says the cost of the excess coverage, which it pegs at about $22 billion, will be covered by a special assessment on its member banks, as the law requires. In other words, not a cent will be billed to taxpayers.

"That position just doesn't square with reality," charged Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.) when he grilled FDIC Chair Martin Gruenberg at a March 28 Senate Banking Committee hearing.

Or does it?

One often overlooked aspect of government bailouts as they're often implemented is who's getting bailed out. The 2008 banking bailout protected many of the executives whose manifest imprudence created the housing crash that precipitated the financial crisis. Indeed, it protected the banks themselves — Citigroup, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs among them.

But it left home buyers whose mortgages were driven underwater in the crash at the mercy of some of these same banks, which often made ad-hoc decisions on whether to restructure the loans or foreclose.

As investment manager and financial commentator Barry Ritholtz observed in his 2009 book "Bailout Nation," the proper solution to the banking crisis was obvious: "Put the insolvent banks into FDIC receivership, fire management … wipe out shareholders." But to the mandarins of financial policy, those choices were "simply unthinkable."

The bailout's chief architect, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, was a banker himself, the former chief executive of Goldman Sachs. So it should not have been a surprise that the bailout left the perpetrators of the 2008 crash almost entirely unscathed.

The managers of the recent crisis — Gruenberg, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome H. Powell and Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen — appear to have learned at least some of the lessons of that earlier event. Let's take a look at how their rescue plan has unfolded.

To begin with, is it a "bailout"? The answer is plainly yes. But the beneficiaries aren't the banks' executives and shareholders. According to the government, the former are all fired and the latter will be wiped out.

The chief beneficiaries are depositors with balances exceeding the deposit insurance limit. One can debate the level of their imprudence in parking millions of dollars in cash in unprotected accounts, but it does appear that many if not most were not investment plutocrats, but rather founders and managers of tech startups and other companies dependent on that money to launch operations and pay their employees' wages.

That brings us to the question of whether the cost of the bailout will land on taxpayers. Hagerty's point was that the cost of the special assessment will ultimately be borne by consumers.

"As we all know," Hagerty said, "these banks will have to pass these costs along. Last time I checked, those costs get passed along to consumers. Those consumers are American taxpayers."

Hagerty wasn't alone in making that point. "We all know that what [the banks] will do is pass the costs on to someone like me," Rep. Roger Williams (R-Texas) told Gruenberg at a companion hearing by the House Financial Services Committee.

The underlying idea is that commercial enterprises pass their expenses on to consumers on a dollar-for-dollar basis. It's a common notion, often reflected in arguments against raising taxes on corporations or raising the minimum wage — that doing so will simply mean that customers will have to cover the full increase at the fast-food counter.

But it's plainly untrue. It fails to acknowledge the contributions of other factors in product pricing, such as the quest for market share, which requires businesses to swallow some costs in order to compete with rivals on price.

Nor does banking resemble businesses that have the freedom to pass costs along to customers. That's especially so in the current financial environment.

Indeed, over the last year many banks have been forced to increase interest rates on demand accounts and certificates of deposit to attract customers — in effect, to *reduce* prices on those products.

None of that means the SVB and Signature rescues were perfect or that no financial services customers won't see their costs rise.

The rescues were an ad hoc response by regulators to sudden depositor runs on those institutions that seemed to threaten the stability of the banking system as a whole.

As for who may face higher costs in the wake of the bank failures, they're likely to be people who are already abused by the banking system — notably low-income customers and the less wealthy.

As banking expert Adam Levitin of Georgetown Law School observes in a blog post about what might happen if the cap on FDIC insurance is completely removed and banks are charged concomitantly higher premiums, "average Joes are going to be facing things like higher account fees or lower APYs [that is, annual percentage yields on investments such as certificates of deposit], without gaining any benefit."

That would only increase the inequality of the banking system. Lower-income and less-wealthy Americans are already grossly overcharged for financial services and saddled with costly nuisances such as overdraft fees and required minimum balances.

That has kept nearly 6 million American households from having any bank accounts at all, driving them to predatory services such as payday lenders and check-cashing firms.

Put it all together, and there are certainly costs associated with the rescues of Silicon Valley and Signature banks.

Critics who dispute that taxpayers will be held harmless have the wrong end of the stick, however. There's no evidence that the costs will be directly charged to taxpayers, but the idea that the government will always bail them out in a crisis won't foster healthy behavior in bankers or bank depositors.

Still, no one who says the regulators were wrong to do this rescue seems to have grappled with what may be the most important consideration: What would have happened to the banking system and the U.S. economy if they hadn't done so?

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik@latimes.com.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Why Trump's lead in polls doesn't faze GOP rivals

DOYLE McMANUS

Last week, a Wall Street Journal poll reported that former President Trump had opened a wide lead over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in the nascent contest for the Republican presidential nomination.

In a two-candidate matchup, Trump drew 51% to DeSantis' 38%.

That was one of several polls that suggest Trump is firmly on top of the GOP race right now.

Yet other potential candidates have been popping up this month in Iowa and New Hampshire, hoping to discover that conservative donors and voters are yearning for alternatives.

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie stumped last week in New Hampshire, telling GOP voters he's the kind of candidate they need.

The week before that, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina announced he was forming a campaign exploratory committee, a formal step toward candidacy.

And New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, a leading GOP moderate, used a CNN appearance to muse about his future. "I think I could do the job," he said of the presidency.

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has announced her candidacy. So has former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson. Former Vice President Mike Pence is expected to jump in too.

That's seven viable potential challengers to Trump, and it's only April.

If the race is already locked up, why are so many otherwise sensible politicians volunteering to tangle with a former president who'll subject them to a buzz saw of insults?

Simple: In their estimation, this race may be more open than it looks.

"Trump is obviously the favorite, but he's beatable," Republican strategist Alex Conant said. "He's beatable because the race isn't static. The poll numbers today are not what they will be six months from now."

GOP pollster Whit Ayres agreed and pointed to evidence that primary voters are open to other candidates.

In focus groups, he said, he's encountered "people who voted for Trump, who like what he did as president, but they don't think Trump can win this time. … They want somebody who has a different temperament."

Ayres estimates that roughly a third of Republicans are unshakable "Always Trump" loyalists.

But a larger chunk of the GOP electorate, about 60%, consists of people who voted for Trump in 2016 or 2020 but are willing to consider alternatives — a group he calls "Maybe Trump."

They're a potential majority in Republican primaries, and that makes them the key to the nomination.

Polls suggest Ayres is right.

In last week's Wall Street Journal survey, for example, Trump was the choice of 51% of Republican voters when tested against DeSantis — but only 29% said they'd "definitely" stick with the former president.

Other polls also suggest the ranks of Trump loyalists have eroded. In an Associated Press-NORC survey this month, 37% of Republican voters said they had a "very favorable" opinion of Trump — a drop from 47% in July 2021.

The challengers' pitch to voters isn't a rejection of Trump's policies, which all of them broadly endorse. It's a practical argument that he's unlikely to win a general election against President Biden or any other Democrat.

Haley delivered a gentle version of that message in Iowa this month.

"We have to elect someone who can win the general election," she told voters in Des Moines. "That requires a new generational leader. That requires leaving the baggage, the drama and the status quo of the past."

Christie has characteristically been more pugnacious.

Trump "failed us as a president," he told voters in New Hampshire last week. "Joe Biden is a product of Trump's failures."

Most other potential candidates, including DeSantis, have steered clear of directly criticizing Trump.

It's far too early to forecast the outcome, of course. The first real contest, the Iowa caucuses, is more than nine months away. The first GOP debate, in Milwaukee, is in August, to be followed by a second at the Reagan library in Simi Valley.

"Most primary voters aren't really paying attention yet," said Conant, who worked on Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign. "The debates will be the first real test."

Meanwhile, the candidates are shadow-boxing in what's known as the invisible primary: appealing to donors, trying applause lines on voters and defining their still-blurry visions of post-Trump Republicanism.

For DeSantis, that appears to be Trumpism 2.0, with a focus on the culture wars. For Haley, Scott and Pence, it's an attempt at a kinder, gentler Trumpism. For Christie, Sununu and Hutchinson, it's more like a return to pre-Trump conservatism.

But all are arguing that their party will have a brighter future under new management — and all are refusing to accept current polling as the final word.

No matter what you think of their policies, give them credit for at least one thing: They're offering GOP voters an alternative to four more years of the Trump Show.

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U.S. Embassy in Sudan evacuated

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Biden said late Saturday that the U.S. military had completed the evacuation of U.S. Embassy personnel in Sudan and called for an end to "unconscionable" violence there as two rival leaders battled for power in the African country.

Biden thanked the U.S. troops who carried out the mission to extract American staffers in Sudan. With the evacuation, Washington closed the U.S. mission in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, indefinitely.

The staffers were airlifted to an undisclosed location in Ethiopia, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the mission. U.S. troops carried out the operation as fighting between two armed Sudanese commanders — which has killed more than 400 people, put the nation at risk of collapse and could have consequences far beyond its borders — moved into a second week.

"I am proud of the extraordinary commitment of our Embassy staff, who performed their duties with courage and professionalism and embodied America's friendship and connection with the people of Sudan," Biden said in a statement. "I am grateful for the unmatched skill of our service members who successfully brought them to safety."

Biden also thanked Djibouti, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia for their help with the mission.

Biden ordered American troops to evacuate embassy personnel after receiving a recommendation earlier Saturday from his national security team with no end in sight to the fighting.

"This tragic violence in Sudan has already cost the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians. It's unconscionable and it must stop," Biden said. "The belligerent parties must implement an immediate and unconditional cease-fire, allow unhindered humanitarian access, and respect the will of the people of Sudan."

MARWAN ALI Associated Press

SMOKE rises in Khartoum, Sudan. The U.S. military evacuated embassy personnel, President Biden said.

The evacuation order was believed to apply to about 70 Americans. U.S. forces were flying them from a landing zone at the embassy to an unspecified location.

The State Department has suspended operations at the embassy because of the dire security situation. It was not clear when the embassy might resume functioning.

"The widespread fighting has caused significant numbers of civilian deaths and injuries and damage to essential infrastructure and posed an unacceptable risk to our Embassy personnel," Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said in a statement.

The fighting erupted April 15 between two factions whose leaders are vying for control over the country. The violence has included an unprovoked attack on an American diplomatic convoy and numerous incidents in which foreign diplomats and aid workers were killed, injured or assaulted.

The White House has said it has no plans for a government-coordinated evacuation of other American citizens trapped in Sudan. An estimated 16,000 private U.S. citizens are registered with the embassy as being in the country.

Biden said he was receiving regular reports from his team on efforts to assist those remaining Americans in Sudan "to the extent possible."

The embassy issued an alert earlier Saturday cautioning that "due to the uncertain security situation in Khartoum and closure of the airport, it is not currently safe to undertake a U.S. government-coordinated evacuation of private U.S. citizens."

Fighting in Sudan between forces loyal to two top generals has put that nation at risk of collapse and could have consequences far beyond its borders.

The fighting, which began as Sudan attempted to transition to democracy, already has left millions trapped in urban areas, sheltering from gunfire, explosions and looters.

Army chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan said he would facilitate the evacuation of American, British, Chinese and French citizens and diplomats from Sudan after speaking with the leaders of several countries that had requested help. The rival Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, in a Twitter posting said it cooperated with U.S. forces.

The U.S. evacuation planning got underway in earnest on Monday after the embassy convoy was attacked in Khartoum. The Pentagon confirmed Friday that U.S. troops were being moved to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti ahead of a possible evacuation.

Saudi Arabia announced the successful repatriation of some of its citizens Saturday, sharing footage of Saudi nationals and other foreigners welcomed with chocolate and flowers as they stepped off an apparent evacuation ship at the Saudi port of Jeddah.

Embassy evacuations conducted by the U.S. military are relatively rare and usually take place only under extreme conditions.

When it orders an embassy to draw down staff or suspend operations, the State Department prefers to have its personnel leave on commercial transportation if that is an option. When the embassy in Kyiv temporarily closed just before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, staffers used commercial transport to leave.

However, in several other recent cases, notably in Afghanistan in 2021, conditions made commercial departures impossible or extremely hazardous.

U.S. troops accompanied personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, in an overland convoy to Tunisia when they evacuated in 2014.

Burhan told Saudi-owned Al Arabiya satellite channel Saturday that flights in and out of Khartoum remained risky because of the ongoing clashes. He claimed that the military had regained control over all the other airports in the country, except for one in the southwestern city of Nyala.

Even as the warring sides said Friday that they'd agreed to a cease-fire for the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, explosions and gunfire were heard across Khartoum on Saturday.

Explosive found days after Russia bombed own city

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seventeen apartment buildings were evacuated Saturday in a Russian city near the Ukrainian border after an explosive device was found at the site where a bomb accidentally dropped by a Russian warplane caused a powerful blast last week, authorities said.

The bomb blast late Thursday rocked part of Belgorod, leaving a large crater and injuring three people. The Russian Defense Ministry quickly acknowledged that a weapon accidentally released by one of its Su-34 bombers caused the explosion.

The ministry said an investigation was underway but did not elaborate on the details of the weapon, which military experts said was probably a 1,100-pound bomb.

The governor of Belgorod province, Vyacheslav Gladkov, reported Saturday that sappers examining the site of Thursday's blast found and decided to detonate what he called an "explosive object" that was "in the immediate vicinity of residential buildings."

The precautionary evacuations ended later in the day, according to Belgorod Mayor Valentin Demidov.

"The bomb was removed from the residential area. Residents are being delivered back to their homes," Demidov wrote on Telegram.

Russian authorities did not say whether the detonated device was dropped by accident on Thursday and if so, if it was a remnant of or separate from the bomb that exploded in the city.

Belgorod, about 25 miles east of the Ukrainian border, has faced regular drone attacks since Russia invaded Ukraine last year.

Russian authorities have blamed those strikes on the Ukrainian military, which refrained from directly claiming responsibility for the attacks.

Late Saturday, the governor of Ukraine's Kharkiv region, Oleh Sinegubov, said five missiles fired from the Belgorod area hit the region, including one that struck unspecified "civilian infrastructure" in the capital city, Kharkiv.

Moscow's invasion of Ukraine has sent relations with the West into a deep freeze, with frequent expulsions of diplomats on both sides.

On Saturday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said that German authorities had "decided on another mass expulsion of employees of Russian diplomatic missions in Germany."

A ministry statement said that "as a reaction to the hostile actions of Berlin," Russia decided to "mirror" the expulsions by Germany and "significantly limit" the maximum number of staffers at German diplomatic missions in Russia.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Russia is expelling more than 20 German diplomats, Russian state media reported, but didn't give a precise number.

Germany's Foreign Ministry said it took note of the comments. It said that the German government and Russia had been in contact in recent weeks on "questions regarding the staffing of the respective diplomatic missions" and that a flight on Saturday took place in that context. It didn't elaborate.

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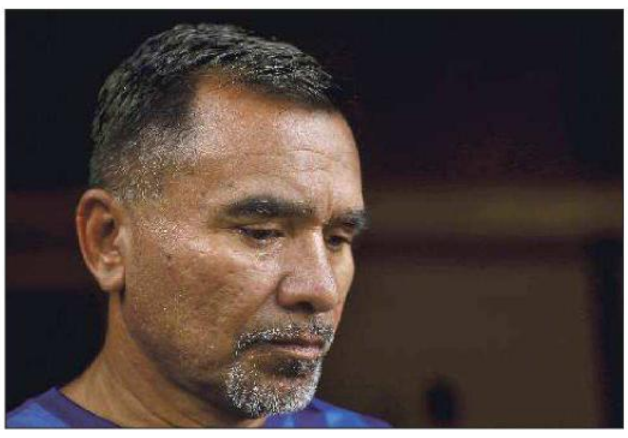
Saved from life in a gang, but then locked up

A SOLDIER patrols in San Salvador. The government's crackdown on crime is extremely popular.

"WE have been tormented by the gangs," says Vicky Sanchez, working at her San Salvador restaurant.

Photographs by GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

EX-GANG MEMBER Nelson Sanchez participates in a recent evangelical conference in Garden Grove.



EVERYONE in Pastor Edwin Guzmán's job training program for former gang members was arrested.

THE DORMITORY at Living Free, a program for former gang members in Santa Ana, El Salvador.

[**El Salvador,** from A1]

say they feel much safer. There's little attention paid to the evangelical pastors who believe gang members can change.

"Nothing is happening; none of them are getting out," Moz said of his imprisoned parishioners, as he walked past two dusty ovens pushed against a wall in the Eben-ezer church basement.

Bukele is unapologetic for his approach on gangs.

"These pastors are right: God can redeem anyone. God and God alone can forgive their sins and save them," he tweeted Wednesday in response to an earlier version of this story. "If God forgives them, they will enjoy eternal life. But here on Earth they still must face the consequences of their actions."

L.A.-born gangs ruled El Salvador

The gangs that have long dominated life in El Salvador formed in Los Angeles. Barrio 18 and Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, were transplanted to El Salvador in the 1990s, when the U.S. deported thousands of Salvadorans. For decades they controlled neighborhoods through extortion and violence.

The country fought back with mass arrests, but the gangs ended up organizing in prisons. The government helped to broker a gang truce, but it collapsed, triggering violence that left El Salvador with one of the highest homicide rates in the world. In 2015, it reached more than 100 killings for every 100,000 residents. The government labeled gangs as terrorist groups, but the killings continued.

As prisons filled and pastors proselytized inside, some gang members began converting to evangelicalism, a growing movement in El Salvador that preached the power of repentance.

Gangs sometimes let their members leave if they were sincere about their conversion. The pious lifestyle that churches encouraged let gangs easily monitor their former members, said Jose Miguel Cruz, a gang expert at Florida International University.

"The gang still considers you a threat, a risk, a potential competitor," said Cruz, who surveyed almost 1,200 active and former Salvadoran gang members and found that adhering to religious life is the most accepted way to leave a gang.

When Moz began housing former gang members at his church, friends warned that he could be arrested. Rumors spread that he was "a pastor for gang members."

Several families left the congregation, including Moz's own mother. Others warmed to the newcomers as they saw them living respectfully in the church.

Moz required the men to participate in church activities, expected them to begin removing their tattoos and forbade communication with their old gangs.

Several were killed when their gang felt that they weren't committed to their new life, perhaps after spotting them drunk on the street, he said.

"We're very sorry, but this one didn't walk right," the gang would tell him.

The ex-gang members would stay in the two-story church a few months, or several years, Moz said. One occupant, Julio, completed a theology course and worked at the church's convenience store.

At Sunday services, dozens of ex-gang members filled one side of the large room. Those working at the bakery rode bicycles through nearby neighborhoods to sell their bread, wearing shirts with the church's name.

But the men attracted attention. Police raided the church several times, checking the IDs of ex-gang members and briefly hauling some away.

"It was a time of great difficulty," Moz said. "But there wasn't room for fear. It was more the wish, the passion for change."

Moz worked with pastors at other churches to establish several more halfway houses. He traveled to Los Angeles to visit Homeboy Industries, whose gang rehabilitation program provides tattoo removal, legal services, counseling and job training to thousands every year.

In 2019, the U.S. Agency for International Development began working on a program for people who said they had left or were trying to leave a gang. The agency teamed up with Moz's church and two others to provide job training and counseling. USAID also supported La Factoria Ciudadana, a rehabilitation center west of San Salvador that worked with about 300 people a month from churches and the prison system.

They had high hopes to expand the rehabilitation efforts.

In March 2022, a three-day gang rampage left 87 people dead. The violence is widely believed to have followed the collapse of a secret truce between the government and gang leaders, which Bukele has denied ever existed.

The state of emergency that followed suspended civil liberties including the rights to know the reason for one's arrest and to appear before a judge within 72 hours. Congress expanded pretrial detention and enacted 30-year prison sentences for gang members and those supporting gangs.

Soldiers swarmed neighborhoods, arresting those with gang tattoos or past convictions, or people they considered suspicious. On Twitter, Bukele posted video of prisoners — barefoot and clad only in white boxer shorts — running, crouched, with their hands cuffed behind them in a new megaprison.

Bukele's government says the roundups more than halved the number of homicides, from 1,147 in 2021 to 495 last year. Experts agree the number of killings has decreased, but some local news reports accuse the government of overstating the reduction.

Salvadorans now visit neighborhoods that were off limits: Previously, if they lived in one gang's territory but crossed into the turf of another, they risked being killed.

Tough policies, popular leader

The crackdown has boosted the popularity of Bukele, whose authoritarian tendencies have alarmed U.S. officials. He's targeted critics and journalists and his government has ousted Supreme Court judges and intimidated anti-corruption prosecutors. But in El Salvador, the president holds a 91% approval rating, according to a survey by the Salvadoran news site La Prensa Gráfica. He plans to run for reelection next year even though the country's constitution bans consecutive terms.

In an artisanal market in San Salvador's historic center, people buy key chains, jerseys and aprons — all adorned with Bukele's face. One large wall decoration features Bukele, a clock and the words: "The president that's making history."

"It's like a dream, it's the best thing that has happened," shopkeeper Ceci Martínez said of Bukele's gang crackdown. "We're not locked in, the streets are calm, people go for walks, tourists visit us."

Martínez said she doubts the sincerity of gang members' evangelical conversions. She began crying as she told of how her son, Luis David, was killed several decades ago, when he was 18. He had moved into a neighborhood controlled by MS-13. He left behind a nearly 1-year-old child, whom Martinez helped to raise.

"The critics are the ones who haven't lived what we have lived," she said.

But the state of emergency has alarmed human rights groups.

Officials have detained hundreds of people with no connections to gangs in indiscriminate mass raids, Human Rights Watch and the Salvadoran human rights group Cristosal said in a December report. Some police commanders appeared to have set daily arrest quotas, the report says, and hearings of hundreds of people at a time have made it difficult for attorneys to present evidence.

Security experts point to the failures of past repressive approaches to gangs.

"This is not a solution to the problem," said Mark Ungar, a political scientist at Brooklyn College who has researched gang extortion in Central America. "It may be a stopgap measure to stop the bleeding, but you're not dealing with the inherent causes of crime," such as poverty or police corruption.

In an interview, El Salvador's vice president, Félix Ulloa, denied the practice of arbitrary detentions and said that the crackdown "has returned peace to the communities," insisting that residents no longer fear gang retaliation for reporting crime.

"There's harmony, you see people smiling now, the same people that had been anguished because their daughter was raped ... because they killed their child when they left school," he said. "People aren't living these experiences anymore."

Ulloa acknowledged that more than 3,000 prisoners have been released because they weren't connected to a gang or were arrested by mistake. He said the decision on whether ex-gang members should be tried will be made by judges. He added that those running rehabilitation programs should notify officials.

"If you do it in the shadows, hidden, it's most likely that the authorities will think it's a refuge for terrorists," he said.

Several pastors interviewed said that no one in their rehabilitation programs had been released after arrests.

Of the 59 people in the USAID program before the emergency decree, 41 are in prison, as are many who passed through La Factoria Ciudadana. Police also targeted a rehabilitation program run by a U.S. missionary in the Santa Ana region and arrested five young, tattooed men.

A gang member 'transformed'

Pastor Edwin Guzmán's inspiration to reach out to gang members came from an unlikely source: a 1970 American movie, "The Cross and the Switchblade," starring Pat Boone as an evangelical pastor who ministers in a crime-ridden Brooklyn neighborhood. Guzmán saw the movie years later and said the message stayed with him.

At his evangelical church in San Salvador, Guzmán created a job training program in which former gang members manufactured liquid soap. Everyone in the course was arrested in the crackdown. So were dozens of parents with kids in the church's after-school program.

Guzmán cried as he talked about Armando, who left MS-13 after he began participating in the church's youth group in the mid-2000s. At the time, Guzmán let him live in the church and gave him the keys.

"Some were against it, but I said no. I said that if we didn't believe that God could change these people, then who was going to believe?" he recalled.

Armando was arrested last spring after working as a church handyman for 17 years.

"He was trustworthy, transformed," Guzmán said. "God had done his work in him. Armando was and is a good person."

An hour away, in the country's La Libertad region, José Elvis Reynoza's one-room evangelical church sits off a dusty dirt road. His family lives next door in a tin-roof home, with the words "The blood of Christ has power" painted on an exterior wall. Two large pregnant pigs laze in an adjacent pen.

Reynoza joined MS-13 as a teenager, became a leader and spent several years in prison. He left MS-13 as a young adult after he began attending church, and for years he led a ministry of ex-gang members who'd preach in local markets.

Reynoza's tattoos — "Salvatrucha" is emblazoned across his forehead — drew attention. Police often stopped him on the street.

They arrested him at his home in March 2022 as the sweeps began. Officials posted Reynoza's photo on Twitter, saying he would be tried for belonging to a terrorist organization.

Every 15 days, Reynoza's wife, Francisca, sends him $100 care packages, hoping they make their way to him. She earns $10 a day at most selling clothing displayed on racks outside their home.

Authorities returned to the house a week after Reynoza's arrest, asking Francisca if she'd ever been in prison. "Because we're also taking wives who collaborate," they told her.

The family has gathered letters from other churches vouching for Reynoza. They worry about his diabetes and, like the families of many prisoners, have gotten no information about his condition.

"When people ask how is the pastor, we can't say anything," said Mario Portillo, Reynoza's 24-year-old son, who has taken over as the church's pastor. "We don't have a response."

Escaping alone to California

The risk of arrest was too great for some to stay put. After months of dodging authorities, Nelson Sanchez left behind his wife and three children and fled to California.

Sanchez, 39, had joined MS-13 at 14. When he was released in 2008 after a months-long stint in prison that he described as a wake-up call, he told his gang he was stepping away to search for God.

"We'll see if it's true," they told him.

Shortly after, he said, he was attacked, shot by gang members angry with his choice.

Back then, Sanchez lived by Guzmán's church, and the pastor let him do maintenance work. He became a youth pastor, took theology courses and helped Guzmán reach out to young people through a neighborhood soccer tournament. In 2019, he began leading his own congregation.

In May, police showed up at Guzmán's church asking for "Nelson." Sanchez left El Salvador that month. He turned himself in at the U.S.-Mexico border in June and, after telling his story to a judge, was granted parole, a temporary permission to enter the country.

In his asylum application, he wrote that "the El Salvadoran government is looking for me to take me back to prison and if I fall back in prison there is no doubt in my mind that the MS will kill me."

Sanchez now lives in Los Angeles with two of his siblings, waiting for his case to proceed.

"To a certain extent I support that the president is yanking the gang problem by its roots," he said. "But what is not good is that he doesn't know how to distinguish between the active gang members and the ones who are not active.

"For 16 years I've been in a totally different world than the one I belonged to because God gave me the opportunity to repair my life."

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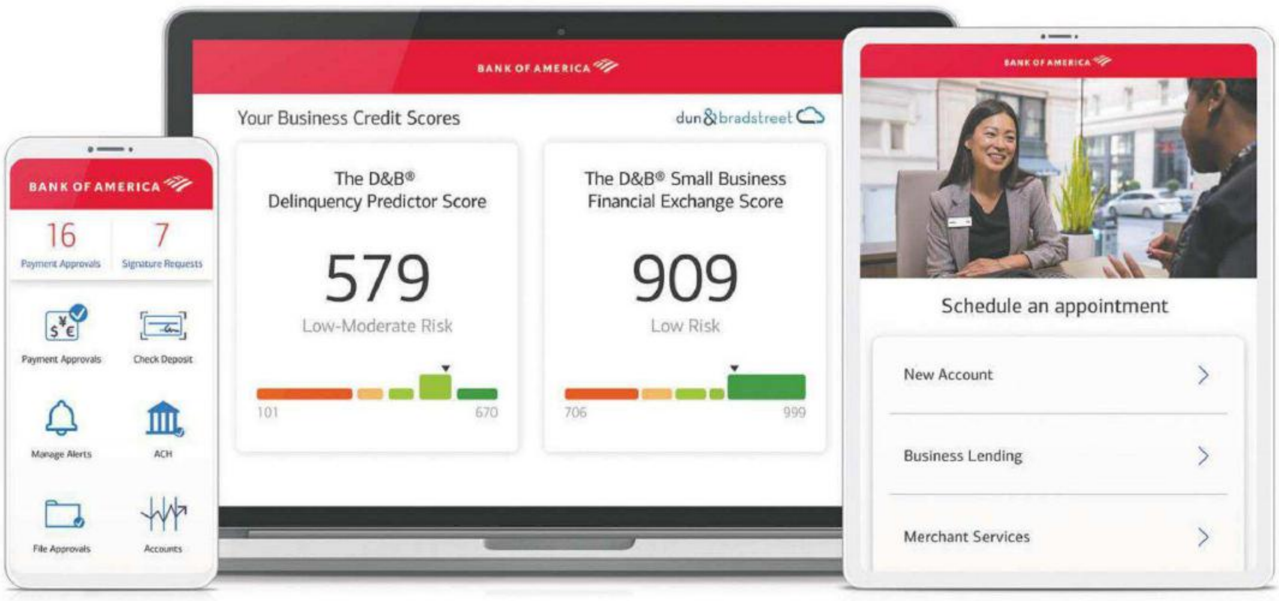
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Book bans on rise in schools, largely in GOP states

By Alexandra E. Petri

Fearing criminal penalties, public schools throughout Missouri removed hundreds of books from their libraries after state lawmakers last year made it illegal to provide students with "sexually explicit" material — a law that carried punishment of up to a year in prison.

The issue is playing out in public school districts and campus libraries across the United States, 1st Amendment advocates warn: Book bans, gassed up by state legislation pushed by conservative officials and groups, are stacking up at an alarming rate.

In a report published Thursday by PEN America, the nonprofit free speech organization cited 1,477 instances of books being prohibited during the first half of the 2022-23 academic year, up 28.5% from 1,149 cases in the previous semester. Overall, the organization has recorded more than 4,000 instances of banned books since it started tracking cases in July 2021.

At issue is more than "a single book being removed in a single district," said Kasey Meehan, the Freedom to Read program director at PEN America and a lead author of the report.

"It's a set of ideas, it's themes, it's identities, it's knowledge on the history of our country — these are the kind of bigger buckets of what is being removed, restricted, suppressed in public schools and public school libraries," Meehan said.

Forbidden books are largely by and about people of color and LGBTQ individuals, the group found. Of the books removed in the first half of this school year, 30% are about race, racism or include characters of color, and 26% have LGBTQ characters or themes — all at a time when library shelves are becoming more inclusive and representative of society.

Josh Edelson For The Times

"GENDER QUEER: A Memoir," Maia Kobabe's story of being nonbinary, is among the most-banned books in the nation. Certain states and school districts are increasingly targeting books about race or LGBTQ issues.

The clash over books is not new, but the tactics are changing. Once spurred mainly by concerned parents, book removals are increasingly powered by organized groups, elected leaders and legislation targeting titles that don't align with their values, PEN America found.

The pandemic helped shift that landscape as schools became entrenched in partisan politics. Groups such as Moms for Liberty, united in its opposition to mask mandates, took aim at curricula and rallied against books it deemed inappropriate for young readers.

School board meetings became arenas for those fights, which spilled onto social media. Some school staffers, particularly librarians, found themselves on the front lines of the intensifying culture wars, facing bullying, harassment and accusations of pedophilia or grooming children due to the literature they offered.

Texas school districts had the highest number of bans in PEN America's report, with 438 removals. Florida had 357 bans, followed by Missouri, with 315 bans. In Utah and South Carolina, there were more than 100 bans.

State legislatures and courthouses in Republican-controlled states have largely led the charge.

According to PEN America, nearly a third of the book bans earlier this school year were the direct result of newly enacted state laws in Florida, Utah and Missouri. But it's very likely that the laws, which are often ambiguous, indirectly led to many more effective book bans by creating a "chilling effect," PEN said. Books have vanished en masse as staffers vet literature to ensure it doesn't run afoul of the laws.

The wave of legislation has drawn challenges. Missouri's law, enacted in August, is the subject of a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri and two state library associations, which argue the law is unconstitutional.

Jamie Gregory, a school librarian in South Carolina, one of the states where bans are most prevalent, said the escalating situation feels like "it presents … this binary choice" to librarians.

"You either choose to stand by the ethics and the foundation of the profession and defend intellectual freedom rights, or risk your job and your personal safety," said Gregory, who has done work advocating for intellectual freedom. "I don't know that a lot of people truly understand what that feels like."

A law in Florida, which has more book bans than any state but Texas, requires that books be reviewed by certified media specialists, leading some districts to clear out or hide books in their libraries and classrooms.

Brian Covey said such was the case at his children's public school in Florida's Duval County. One Thursday in January, Covey picked up his two elementary school children after a book fair fundraiser. Covey, who worked as a substitute teacher at a nearby campus, said his daughter asked him whether he'd heard about what happened at school that day.

"They took away all the books," he recalled his children telling him.

Covey, puzzled, asked which books. His children reiterated: all of them.

Classroom shelves were barren or sealed off with construction paper, he said. Schools in the county had launched a formal review of their classroom libraries in accordance with the law and guidance from the state.

"They even went through and took away books kids were currently reading," said Covey, who tweeted about the issue.

Duval County Public Schools did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Covey said his daughter called it "wrong" and "rude" to take books away, because some children don't have them at home or are still learning to read. For a second-grader, she is an advanced reader and would devour books daily, Covey said. But the few books that have made their way back to the shelves after being reviewed are "boring" to her. She now mostly spends her free time hanging out with classmates.

"While I love that she gets time to play with her friends, she loves to learn," Covey said. "She'd rather be reading books."

Certain books are frequent targets of bans. Some of the most commonly removed titles last year, according to PEN America, were the graphic-novel-style memoir "Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe, "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison, "Flamer" by Mike Curato, the graphic novel of "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood and "Milk and Honey," a book of poems by Rupi Kaur.

The movement to restrict books is also affecting public libraries.

In Llano County in a rural area of central Texas, officials debated closing the entire library system rather than follow a judge's order to return 17 challenged titles to its shelves while a lawsuit works its way through court. (County commissioners ultimately decided to keep the library open.)

PEN America's study echoes a March report by the American Library Assn., which found that efforts to censor library books and resources nearly doubled last year to 1,269 such demands, from 729 the previous year. That marks the most attempts to ban books since the organization began collecting such data more than 20 years ago.

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Voucher plan tests ‘anti-woke’ rhetoric

Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

JOHNATHON JOWERS, parent of a Meadow student and minister of music at Calvary Baptist Church, conducts a Bible session at the Texas school, which he describes as “very, very conservative — very not-woke.”

[**Texas,** from A1]

public stipends of up to $8,000 to parents who switch to home-schooling or private schools.

“Our schools are for education, not indoctrination,” Abbott said at one of many recent rallies he has held around the state. “The solution to all of this is to empower parents to choose the school that’s right for them.”

Abbott’s effort will test whether rhetoric about “wokeness” can convince Republicans to abandon even the nation’s most traditional public schools.

So far, many rural Texas conservatives remain unconvinced by the governor’s warnings.

Schools here serve as Friday night football venues, leading employers and focal points of community life. Rural superintendents have been able to use their stature to mount intensive lobbying campaigns, persuading lawmakers representing overwhelmingly Republican areas to break with the governor on a bedrock issue.

Abbott is staking political capital on pulling out a victory this legislative session and may yet prevail.

Over the last two years, other Republican governors have passed expansive voucher-style bills in states that include Arizona, Utah, Iowa, Arkansas and West Virginia. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an expansive bill in late March, and more than a dozen other states are debating similar measures.

Residents in overwhelmingly Republican communities like Meadow worry about the nation’s shifting values. But they don’t see those changes as a problem in their own schools.

“We’re here in a small town for a reason — to kind of protect our kids from that,” said Kenzie Rios, an Abbott voter whose three children are elementary students at Meadow School.

On a Friday at the community cotton gin, farmers and retired farmers gathered for their weekly coffee-and-doughnut meet-up, which includes the Baptist pastor and the Meadow Independent School District superintendent, Bric Turner.

“Meadow schools is kind of being run the same way it was when I was there,” said Ray Gober, an 87-year-old retired farmer whose denim shirt is embroidered with the “G” emblem he used to brand his cattle, while the belt buckle he wears with his Wrangler jeans bears the name of the county, Terry.

“You would be ostracized if you were a woke person in this community,” said Robert Henson, an 80-year-old retired cotton farmer and nightly Fox News watcher.

Henson left early to drive an hour out of town to watch his grandson, a pole-vaulter at Meadow, compete in a regional track meet. Henson graduated from Meadow in 1960, and his family has attended school in the district for nearly 100 years without interruption, since his aunts moved here from Oklahoma in 1926.

The closest private schools are in Lubbock, more than 20 minutes away. But many rural students choose to home-school. Like others here, Henson worries that a voucher program would eventually pull money from all public schools, even as proponents promise to keep rural school budgets intact for five years.

“If we lose our school, we lose our town,” Henson said. “All we got in this little town is the school and this gin.”

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Meadow’s population is 601, according to the 2020 census, and is about two-thirds Latino. Its elementary and upper grades are housed on a single campus for about 255 students, roughly one-third of whom are from a neighboring small town. More than two-thirds of the students are considered low income; the school provides breakfast and lunch to everyone and to-go bags for those who need dinner. Many of the teachers, administrators and coaches live in school-owned homes, in part because housing is scarce.

Shop students are building a giant black smoker on the bed of a trailer; they hope to use it next year in regional brisket and rib cook-offs. Other students are building robots, keeping score of which one moves the most blocks or heavy tuna cans ahead of a competition in Lubbock.

In one classroom, an English teacher uses slang and a wall-size touchscreen as she breaks down Romeo’s duel with Tybalt.

“That’s your own blood. You marry into a new family,” said America Rios, 33, one of many teachers who graduated from the school. “Guess what? You’ve just killed your girlfriend’s cousin. That’s not good.”

Parents in recent years have asked the school librarian to pull a handful of books from the shelves, but there

[See **Texas,** A9]

“**MEADOW** schools is kind of being run the same way it was when I was there,” says Ray Gober, 87, with Reagan Perez at a gathering at the community cotton gin.

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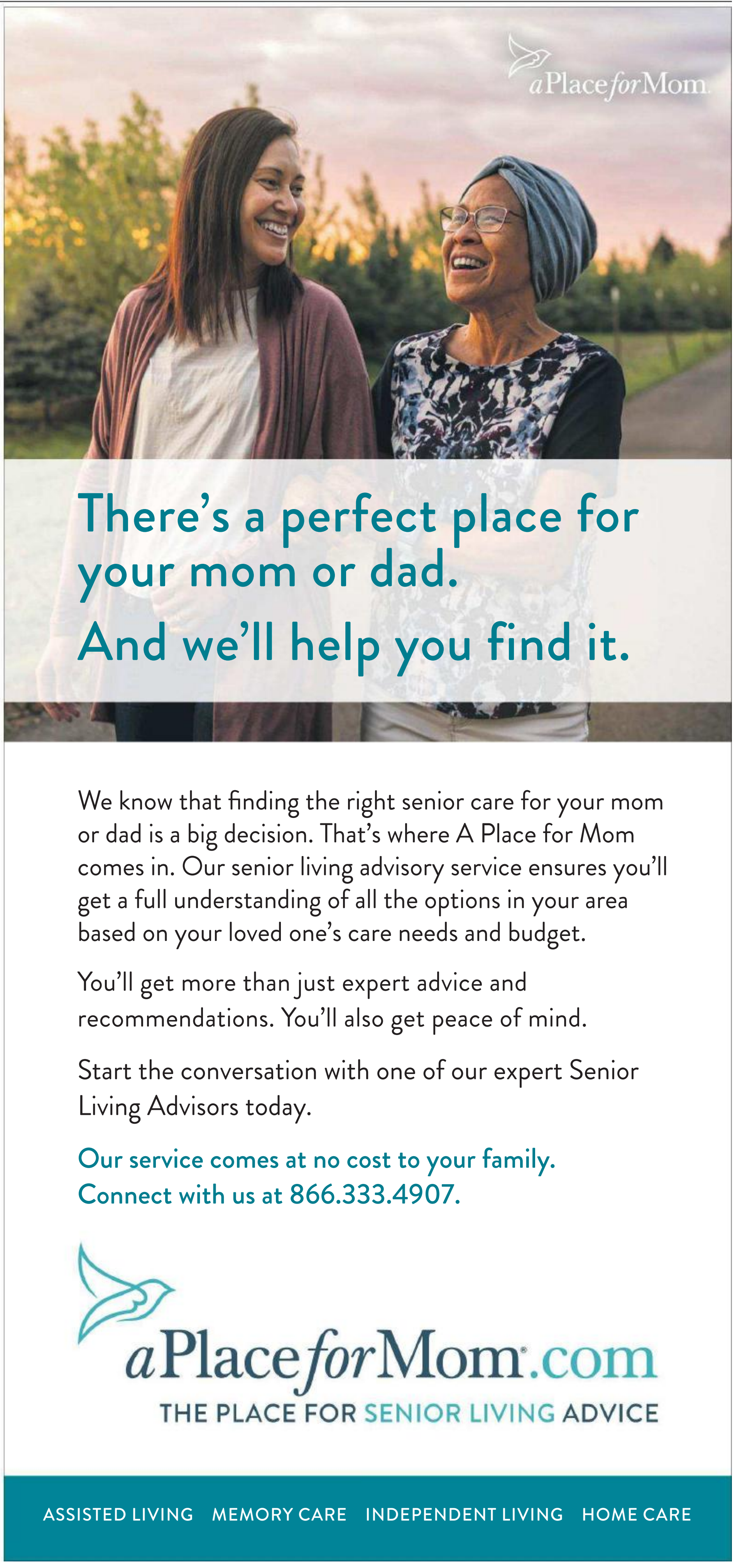

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[**Texas,** from A8]
haven't been clashes over curriculum or LGBTQ issues, even as it is quietly acknowledged that some kids are gay.

"It's just more of an acceptance without really talking about it," Rios said.

Though many of the children and families work in the fields before and after school, all 25 students in this year's graduating class are expected to go to college or technical school.

::

Texas, which already allows students to transfer between public school districts or to enroll in charter schools, has lagged behind other conservative states in adopting vouchers.

More than 30 states have some form of voucher or savings account, according to Jason Bedrick, an education research fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington. Proponents initially tailored their programs to win bipartisan support, restricting eligibility to low-income families and sometimes using private money. Broader initiatives that used public money and allowed stipends for middle and higher earners were often thwarted by teachers unions, which align with Democratic lawmakers.

In California, two statewide ballot initiatives to adopt vouchers have failed: in a 70%-30% vote in 1993 and 71%-29% in 2000. A 2017 poll of California voters found 60% support for vouchers, though a majority of adults graded their local schools with an A or B.

The COVID-19 pandemic supercharged the movement nationwide, as shutdowns eroded conservative parents' trust in their public schools, while Zoom gave them a window into what was being taught, Bedrick said. Republican politicians responded with a string of "parents' rights" policies that gave activists more veto power over books and curricula and added restrictions on drag shows and gender-affirming care for trans youth.

> 'If we lose our school, we lose our town. All we got in this little town is the school and this [cotton] gin.'
>
> — Robert Henson, retired cotton farmer from Meadow, Texas, of a proposed voucher program that would reward parents for taking their kids out of public schools

Bedrick said stipends give dissatisfied parents not only an "escape hatch" but a source of leverage when negotiating with public schools over curricula and reading lists.

Educators agree, but many see that leverage as a problem, worrying that states and school boards are limiting lessons on slavery, Jim Crow and other dark chapters of American history and creating an unsafe or unwelcoming environment for gay kids.

Additionally, universal voucher programs tend to benefit high earners, given that private school tuition is often out of reach for the poor and middle class, even with a stipend.

The Texas voucher bill has passed the state Senate but faces a tougher climb in the House, which has long blocked passage of similar bills. Rural Republicans, who hear regularly from small-town school superintendents, have been the biggest obstacle to passage in a state where Republicans enjoy large majorities.

Turner, Meadow's superintendent, has sent emails to local lawmakers, driven to Austin and spoken with parents and community leaders, pointing to a state estimate that the program will draw $1 billion a year by 2028. He doesn't buy assurances that rural schools will be spared a budget hit.

" 'I'm gonna take half of whatever cash you got in your wallet ... but don't worry about it, because you really won't feel it,' " he said of those promises. "You believe in that?"

House members this month signaled opposition to Abbott's plan, passing a budget that prohibits using public money for private schools. But neither side expects the issue to be resolved until the legislative session ends in late May.

Many parents in Meadow say they know little about the plan's specifics but trust their local educators.

Lynn Redecop, who home-schools her 14-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter to give them a "godly foundation," said she loves the community and would be comfortable sending the kids to public school if she had to. Even if she becomes eligible for a stipend, she's not sure she would accept money from the state unless she understands more about what strings are attached.

Brenda Russell, head of the Central Texas Christian School in Temple, one of several parochial schools where Abbott has held school choice rallies this year, said she cannot accept many more students. But she hopes the bill, which is now open only to students who attended public school the previous year, is eventually expanded to benefit existing private school parents.

In recent years, she has heard more interest from prospective parents worried that kids in younger grades are being taught too much about transgender issues. Her school promises a "biblical worldview."

::

Rural public schools in Texas can't quite match that level of religiosity, though some offer a state-approved elective in Bible studies.

Teachers, students and parents in Meadow say they don't hear much about Christianity discussed directly in the classroom. But it's infused in the culture, with student paintings incorporating the cross and biblical verses displayed in the lunchroom along with renderings of athletes and anime characters.

On a recent Thursday, the principal stood during lunch to announce that the "folks from the Baptist church are over there" and that attendance was voluntary.

Johnathon Jowers, parent of a Meadow student and minister of music at Calvary Baptist Church, was waiting under a tree by a red picnic table.

Jowers, wearing a Calvary trucker hat, with three crosses, over his red ponytail, said the school is open to "you doing you." But at its core, it's "very, very conservative — very not-woke."

He drew several dozen students to his two 12-minute Bible lessons for middle and high school students, which the church leads here about twice a month.

The day's lesson, a passage from Joshua, was about fear and doubt. He told the students they were courageous just for being there and standing up for their faith.

"We will never be separated from the love of God," he said.

He played a song on the guitar before his intern led a prayer seeking courage. Then, he sent the students back to the playground.

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Forbes Forbes Forbes GBAC 2022

‘A lot of us don’t know the law, a lot of us are vulnerable. We just want someone to help us solve the problem and not take advantage of us.’

— Stephanie Charles, an actor whose brother, Wesner, was convicted of robbery and attempted carjacking

Jay L. Clendenin Los Angeles Times

STEPHANIE CHARLES, whose brother has been behind bars since 2002, worries the $19,000 she and others paid Spolin Law was wasted.

To L.A. lawyer, justice reform was a business opportunity

[**Lawyer,** from A1]

means borrowed against their homes, took out high-interest loans, dipped into 401(k)s, worked double shifts, ran public fundraisers and amassed credit card debt to pay Spolin fees that could run north of $40,000.

A Times investigation found that Spolin built a booming enterprise by fanning false hopes in some families desperate to get their loved ones home. He encouraged people to spring for pricey legal services that he knew or should have known had little or no chance of success, the newspaper found.

He told families of men incarcerated for murder and other violent crimes that progressive L.A. Dist. Atty. George Gascón could move to free them in less than a year under one new resentencing law. None of Spolin’s attempts, for which families paid about $10,000 each, appear to have been successful, and Gascón’s office told The Times it generally does not consider such offenders to be good candidates for resentencing.

In another example, Spolin presented a commutation from the governor, which experts say is a long shot for even the most rehabilitated of candidates, as “a very real possibility for all types of inmates.” Hundreds paid up to $14,000 for him to submit applications. None has been granted, The Times found, and some were patently unsuitable. One inmate he proposed for commutation this year had pleaded guilty in May 2022 to running a drug ring from his cell at Corcoran State Prison.

The Times found that Spolin’s firm relied on the work of some low-paid contract lawyers who were not licensed in California and had little or no experience in criminal appeals. Among those helping draft legal memos and court filings were lawyers from the Philippines and other developing countries making about $10 an hour.

Spolin denied exploiting inmates and their families and blamed district attorneys’ offices and others who he says have taken too narrow a view of which individuals should be freed.

Stephanie Charles, an actor whose brother, Wesner, has been behind bars since 2002 for robbery and attempted carjacking, said she now worries that the $19,000 she and other loved ones scraped together to pay Spolin for a commutation and other services was wasted. “A lot of us don’t know the law, a lot of us are vulnerable,” she said. “We just want someone to help us solve the problem and not take advantage of us.”

Supporters of the state’s criminal justice reforms are among Spolin’s biggest critics.

“This guy is getting rich off the most vulnerable people and [giving] them false hope that could really hurt them. It needs to stop now,” Karen Nash, a deputy L.A. public defender who represents prisoners seeking resentencing under the reforms, wrote in a January email to the State Bar of California.

The new laws are designed so that prisoners who qualify get free legal representation.

“It wasn’t contemplated that this would become ambulance chasers who would see this as a way to make money off the backs of people who are in prison,” said Hillary Blout, a former San Francisco prosecutor who helped write one of the reform measures.

Spolin acknowledged to The Times that he had given some people assessments that turned out to be overly optimistic.

“We are different than other lawyers in that we fight for the way the law should be,” Spolin said. During a three-hour interview, he predicted that courts and law enforcement would step up their use of resentencing laws in coming years, leading to the eventual release of many of the inmates he represents.

“I am so confident that history will prove me right. … All these clients who feel like they’ve been hoodwinked, and then they’re gonna win. And they’re gonna say, ‘Oh, wow. You know, Mr. Spolin was right.’ ”

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Since at least 2009, when a panel of three federal judges ordered California to reduce its dangerously overcrowded prisons, the Golden State has been trying to reform its criminal justice system. Those efforts have picked up speed in recent years as mass incarceration has come to be viewed increasingly as a moral wrong that disproportionately hurts Black and Latino communities, the poor and the mentally ill.

Some reforms that the state passed concerned future prosecutions and did not apply to people already incarcerated. A pair of 2019 laws, however, did affect prisoners by allowing judges to consider inmates for resentencing and release, either on the recommendation of county district attorneys or because of changes to the murder statute that invalidated the convictions of some homicide defendants who had not carried out the actual killing. The statutes could be difficult to understand and did not apply to most people, so advocates visited prisons early on to explain the laws to groups of inmates.

A point they emphasized was that inmates didn’t need to hire attorneys.

“We were concerned because incarcerated people and their families will pay whatever is asked of them for just some hope at freedom,” said Blout, who drafted the law that allowed prosecutors to recommend resentencing.

Not everyone attended the prison briefings on the reforms, and when an inmate was released through the laws — or there was even a rumor that someone might be — word raced through the prisons. Inmates wondering whether they too had a chance shared those hopes with relatives, and before long, many ended up phoning Spolin’s firm.

The attorney provided The Times with lists of clients and relatives he suggested would tell a reporter they were happy with the job he did. Some did not return calls or messages. Two said they felt a public defender would have done a better job, and they were confused about why Spolin would have provided their names to The Times.

Others enthusiastically endorsed the firm.

“It’s been a magical experience,” said Darrell Tittle Jr., who was released in March after two decades in prison. He was convicted of manslaughter for participating in a deadly 2003 fight in which a rival San Diego gang member was shot to death. Tittle did not fire a weapon and was eligible for resentencing under the homicide reform law.

Though the law provides free legal representation for qualified inmates seeking resentencing, Tittle said he wanted a private lawyer and believed Spolin and his colleagues took his case more seriously. “I felt the public defender had already let me down through my initial trial.”

A smattering of other firms, including one started by a former Spolin attorney, have advertised similar services to inmates and families. Spolin’s firm was the first and appears to be by far the largest in California, according to interviews with government officials and advocates.

Spolin has expanded his firm to represent inmates in appeals and other proceedings in Texas, New York and Michigan, and said he plans to add clients in Pennsylvania shortly.

“I want to be known throughout the country,” he told The Times.

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Ramon Valencia Pineda contacted Spolin’s firm last year “desperate to find something good” for his brother Luis, a convicted murderer serving a sentence of life without parole.

In a phone call, Spolin recommended the family seek his release through the new law that allows prosecutors to recommend resentencing and said that for $18,500 his firm would pursue that route and a governor’s commutation, according to Valencia and a firm memo prepared for the family.

The money was daunting for Valencia, who works at a Home Depot in Stockton, and his sister, a department manager at Target. But their dealings with the law firm had filled them with hope. Spolin was bright and spoke authoritatively about their brother’s prospects. In a conference call, Valencia said, the attorney assured the family, “You have a good case.”

Hearing about the smart lawyer ready to fight for their incarcerated relative, cousins, aunts and uncles pitched in, $500 here and $1,000 there.

It was only recently, more than a year after they had paid Spolin, that they learned Luis Valencia never had a chance of being resentenced. In a terse Feb. 1 letter to Spolin, a Merced County deputy district attorney said anyone sentenced to life without parole was disqualified under the office’s guidelines.

“I did not know that was the policy of the D.A.’s office,” Spolin acknowledged to The Times after being asked about the letter. He said Luis Valencia struck him as a good candidate and defended his ignorance of the criteria, saying of prosecutors’ offices in general, “It is very, very, very hard to get a call back.”

Reached on her office line one recent afternoon, the Merced prosecutor who oversees resentencing, Misty Compton, said she was available to provide information about the office’s resentencing policies to anyone seeking it but did not recall ever getting a call from Spolin’s firm.

The Valencia case was not the only time that Spolin urged families to hire his firm to pursue resentencing in a county where the incarcerated person did not meet the office’s criteria. His firm charged the family of Alex Ivey, also serving life without parole for murder, last year to pursue resentencing through the Alameda County D.A. A prosecutor wrote back that Ivey would not be considered because “the law currently does not permit resentencing on special circumstances cases” like his.

Spolin said a prosecutor in the office had previously told his firm inmates like Ivey were eligible.

In Santa Clara County, Spolin charged the families of at least two men convicted of murder to seek resentencing through the D.A.’s office there, according to interviews and firm memos. David Angel, the assistant district attorney overseeing resentencing, said the office is focused on inmates convicted of robbery, burglary and other less serious crimes and has never used the new law to recommend someone convicted of murder be released.

“I did not know that information,” Spolin acknowledged to The Times.

Ramon Valencia said he feels humiliated in front of relatives who gave from their meager savings and wronged by Spolin and his firm.

“Isn’t that their job to look into it?” he said recently. “It doesn’t make any sense to me that he didn’t know.”

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By the time the Valencias paid, Spolin Law was a high-volume operation.

At Solano State Prison in Vacaville, one firm client, who is serving 80 years to life for murder, said that when he goes to collect his legal mail, the registry shows inmate after inmate receiving letters from Spolin Law.

Another client at the same facility offered a reporter the names and prison numbers of nine other inmates in a phone call, saying they were lined up nearby and wanted a chance to describe their own problems with the attorney.

Marcus Yam Los Angeles Times

AARON SPOLIN, shown at a 2017 arraignment, says district attorneys have taken too narrow a view of which individuals should be freed.

Asked how many clients he had, Spolin said, “I don’t know the exact number. Like a lot.” He later estimated he had a couple of hundred clients with active cases. He declined to provide the total number his firm has represented.

Questioned about different cases, Spolin was not familiar with the details or even the names of clients. Families interviewed by The Times said they had never met him in person, and most said they spoke to him just once at the start of his representation. Some inmates said they had never talked to Spolin. Nearly all inmates reported difficulties in reaching him or his four staff attorneys, saying that calls with lawyers took weeks or months to schedule and that they were forced to relay information through assistants, paralegals or case managers.

“If you call in, you will never get the same person,” said Emma Alford, who helped pay $30,000 to Spolin to represent her husband, Justin. “It’s a little disheartening.”

Spolin said the firm is upfront about the fact that many people will work on cases: “We tell clients it’s a team effort in terms of doing their work.”

Case managers dealt frequently with families on the cost of various services and the options for paying in installments. Some relatives strapped for cash said they felt pressured to come up with money for Spolin’s fees.

Case managers do have a financial incentive to convince families to sign up for legal services, Spolin confirmed, saying their pay “is related” to the fees they deliver.

“They get bonuses based on how hard they work,” he said. He said the arrangement did not amount to a commission system, which State Bar rules prohibit.

Spolin denied that he pushed relatives to spend beyond their means.

“There have been circumstances where people have said, ‘This is all I have.’ And I’ve said, ‘You probably don’t want to do this if this is all you have,’ ” he said.

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Spolin grew up in Palo Alto, went to UC Berkeley Law, and took a job as an assistant district attorney in the Bronx. There, he worked fraud and other financial-crimes cases and, according to Spolin, sat second chair on a murder prosecution.

When he moved to L.A. in 2016, he switched to the defense side.

“He didn’t have an office when we hired him. It was just him,” recalled one of his first clients, a then-17-year-old who asked to be identified by her initials, A.B. At the time, she was accused of double murder in the killing of a pregnant woman.

“His rates were very reasonable,” her mother, Mary Medina, recalled.

Spolin fought off a prosecution attempt to move the case to adult court, where the charges carried the possibility of decades in prison. Medina’s daughter ultimately served six years in a juvenile facility and was released last year.

“He did an amazing job, and there was a lot going against me,” A.B. said.

In 2018, as Sacramento legislators were passing the new criminal justice reforms, Spolin started remaking himself as an appeals specialist. He said the timing was “kind of a coincidence” and that he found post-conviction work a better fit for his personality than trials.

“I’m a very introverted person. I don’t like conflict,” he said.

To prepare, he said, he read a textbook about California appellate law and attended a training conducted by judges. He registered Spolin Law as a business in March 2019 using the address of a co-working space on Olympic Boulevard. Employees work remotely from locations all over the country and world.

That decision and others about how to run the firm were influenced by a year and a half Spolin worked at McKinsey after getting an undergraduate degree from Princeton, he said. His time “analyzing how different companies could expand to be successful” led him to embrace new techniques at his firm.

“I want to take what works and discard what doesn’t,” he said.

Aggressive internet advertising was one of the things that seemed to have worked. Spolin hired a digital marketing specialist from Ohio with expertise in Google ads and a goal, stated on his website, “to make my clients phone ring and help them scale their service business.” His other clients included carpet cleaning franchises in suburban Columbus.

Inmates searching for options under the reform laws were presented with paid posts about Spolin. His website featured long articles about the new reform laws, photos of Spolin smiling confidently, and big claims about his reputation and skills.

Though few in L.A.’s legal establishment had ever heard of him, Spolin marketed himself as a widely regarded expert with a firm “in the top 0.4%” of criminal firms nationally. “Multiple independent rating agencies” ranked his firm at the top of its field, he told inmates in letters.

The designation actually came from for-profit outfits that offered Spolin and other lawyers the chance to buy a package, currently priced at $395, that included a wall plaque and permission to advertise their rankings. Spolin said the companies approached him and that he no longer pursues such rankings, which he called “the poor man’s Super Lawyers,” a reference to the glossy legal magazines in which many high-end lawyers advertise.

Whatever its basis, Spolin’s promotional material impressed people like Amanda Allen, whose then-husband, Johnte, was serving life without parole for a 2006 murder in Bakersfield.

“It was just the whole headline,” she recalled. “He said he was the top attorney.”

When she called the firm, she learned of what Spolin described as another McKinsey-inspired innovation: the $3,000 case review.

Before inmates or families talked to Spolin, they had to pony up a retainer that they were told would be used to research their case and evaluate their options. If they wanted to pursue one of those options, the $3,000 would be applied to the bill. If they didn’t, the firm kept it.

Veteran appellate attorneys in California said free or low-cost initial consultations were the norm in the field.

“$3,000? To just look at the case, which probably takes five minutes,” said Paul J. Cohen, a Van Nuys appellate attorney who represents both paying and indigent clients. “I don’t charge more than $500 for a consultation where I actually go to the jail, and usually I don’t charge anything.”

Spolin defended the practice, saying his firm’s approach was more rigorous and valuable. Other lawyers, he said, might “give an off-the-cuff remark, but they’re not getting records, and looking at records and then giving a detailed analysis and a detailed report.”

Coming up with $3,000 was a challenge for Amanda Allen, an administrator at a group home who said she lives “paycheck to paycheck,” but the hope of getting her husband’s sentence reduced was a strong motivation to scrimp and save.

After she paid, she received a memo outlining the options. Spolin reiterated them in a telephone conference. Johnte Allen, listening from prison, was not impressed.

“He was supposed to look over my transcripts, but he didn’t know anything at all,” he said in an interview from Kern Valley State Prison.

Spolin recommended a $20,000 package that included seeking resentencing through the local D.A.’s office. The suggestion struck Allen as absurd. His crime was notorious in extremely conservative Kern County. Just two years earlier, a D.A. candidate had bragged about convicting Allen. Now, Spolin wanted to charge his family to ask the same office for a break?

> ‘He was supposed to look over my transcripts, but he didn’t know anything at all.’
>
> — JOHNTE ALLEN, inmate at Kern Valley State Prison

“There was no way possible. I wasn’t even incarcerated long enough or rehabilitated enough at that time to even be thought of for that specific deal,” he said.

The memos Spolin’s firm prepares for families who pay $3,000 normally run about 14 to 20 pages and are based on a template. A Times review of more than a dozen prepared for families across the state showed that though they do include specific details from inmates’ cases, most of the memo is boilerplate explanations of the various legal avenues available to inmates. Even some of the information that appears to be specific to an inmate is canned.

“We were pleased to learn that Mr. [inmate] has strong family support to help him integrate into society upon his release from prison,” read portions of memos prepared for a half-dozen different families. “This will ensure that Mr. [inmate] will not be destitute on the street and will have a place to stay and facilitate the resumption of a normal life.”

Spolin said the memos had value to families who need a primer on the law and an understanding of what opportunities there were for their loved one: “We are not saying we are giving them anything else.”

Drafting these memos was sometimes delegated to contract lawyers hired through sites like Indeed. One attorney from a developing country said he was paid about $10 an hour to fill out the templates using records and questionnaires answered by inmates. The recommendations he made in the memo were passed up to a licensed California lawyer working at the firm, and he had no direct dealings with families.

The developing-world attorney, who stopped working at the firm last year and spoke on the condition of anonymity to preserve his job prospects, said he met Spolin over a videoconference once during the job interview. Spolin, he said, remarked that the pay was “at least twice as much as the average Philippine legal salary.”

Spolin said in an interview that the firm had used foreign lawyers to carry out paralegal duties in the past but stopped because the international attorneys’ “English level was not good enough in terms of research and looking at cases and that kind of thing.”

The developing-world attorney told The Times that he had no prior training in appellate law or California’s criminal justice reforms. He said he recommended two services to almost every family — commutation applications and pursuit of resentencing through the D.A. — because they theoretically applied to every inmate.

“There was nothing to lose. That was the justification. These were already incarcerated people,” he said.

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Gascón’s election as L.A. district attorney presented Spolin with a huge business expansion opportunity.

About one in every three inmates in the state prison system — more than 30,000 people — was convicted in L.A., and Gascón had campaigned on reducing mass incarceration. Shortly after taking office in December 2020, he issued a “special directive” pledging “a comprehensive review of cases where the defendant received a sentence that was inconsistent with the charging and sentencing policies” his office had embraced. By Gascón’s own estimation, more than 20,000 inmates fell into this category.

“It is like a defense lawyer is running the D.A.’s office,” Spolin recalled thinking.

He featured Gascón on his website describing him as one of the district attorneys “eager to reduce sentences.” In calls with families considering hiring the firm, Spolin invoked Gascón’s name frequently. He acknowledged to The Times that he expected large numbers of inmates, including people convicted of murder and other violent offenses, to get hearings within six to eight months.

Johnathan G. Marquez, serving 75 years to life for murder and attempted murder, said the lawyer spoke of the D.A. “like him and Gascón are college buddies.”

“We’ve got a guy in there right now who is a big reformer and a proponent of policy change,” Marquez recalled Spolin saying. “The time is now, Mr. Marquez, for you to get your documents in there and to get out of prison.”

In reality, Spolin had never met or talked with Gascón, and advocates who helped write the D.A.’s “special directive” said the lawyer’s analysis was way off.

“I think it was clear to anyone involved it was going to be a slow and cautious process,” said Christopher Hawthorne, a Loyola Law clinical professor who helped author the document. Asked whether he expected the D.A. to move quickly to seek the release of many people convicted of serious offenses, he said, “Under no circumstances.”

Any doubts might have been cleared up just two months later, in February 2021. Gascón announced that a special resentencing unit would work with the prison system to identify inmates who fit specific criteria. They included inmates 50 years and older serving sentences for nonviolent and nonserious offenses, and inmates serving sentences for crimes other than homicide committed at age 14 or 15.

“When there is a determination that your case is being considered, you will be notified in writing,” the D.A.’s website stated, adding that the resentencing unit could not “accept calls, emails, letters, or other submissions regarding individual cases.”

In response to a question in an FAQ about whether inmates needed to hire attorneys, Gascón’s office was emphatic: “The District Attorney’s Office is not considering recommendations for resentencing by outside counsel. Therefore, a lawyer cannot initiate or accelerate the review process for an individual case.”

Asked multiple times when he learned of the D.A. policies, Spolin did not provide an answer.

In the period after Gascón announced his criteria and for months after, Spolin kept selling inmates on their prospects for release. He said for about $12,700 he would prepare an “application” for the D.A. of several hundred pages including a persuasive memo for the D.A. about their rehabilitation, character letters, post-release work plans and other information.

“They just said they had been very successful,” said Marquez’s wife, Karen, a bookkeeper who participated in a conference call with Spolin and several colleagues about resentencing. She said she and her mother-in-law paid the firm in installments through April 2021, unaware of the D.A. policy unveiled months earlier. “They painted a picture like they had experience with this and they have had people resentenced successfully and who are now out and free.”

Shaylor Watson, serving life without parole for two murders committed in the 1980s, said Spolin told him that asking for resentencing through the D.A. “was my quickest course of relief.”

“I thought I was going to be the first one to be resentenced because I had been in for more than 30 years,” said Watson, whose resentencing request was submitted in May 2021. A friend and her sister put up $12,000 for legal fees, he said.

Eddie Hunter Jr., sentenced to 24 years for manslaughter he committed as a teenager, said Spolin spoke of his chances with a lot of confidence.

“He told me I was a prime candidate. He told me my case belongs on the firm website,” said Hunter, whose girlfriend, then a home health aide, used money she had set aside to buy a car to pay Spolin.

The Marquezes, Watson, Hunter and other inmates and families said Spolin did not tell them of the D.A. criteria or the explicit instruction not to send materials to the office when he pitched them on the service.

Correspondence provided to The Times shows the lawyer informed some clients of the D.A. criteria in writing months after they paid. The letters were largely identical but sent at different times — Watson’s in September 2021; Marquez’s in December 2021, another man’s in January 2022.

“To be clear, while you do not meet the current priority criteria it does not mean that you are ineligible,” the letter read.

Clients expecting to get out of prison within a year were devastated. In Folsom, Wesner Charles Jr., whose actor sister and other relatives had paid $19,000, learned of the D.A.’s policy from another inmate. In an angry January letter, Charles accused Spolin of deception.

“You knew my case was [a] serious and violent felony, and you still elected to charge my family and for a service that didn’t fit me,” he wrote.

Spolin denied deceiving the Charles family and said he still considered him a good candidate for resentencing. He said he initially expected the D.A.’s criteria would be in effect only “for the first few weeks” before the office began evaluating other classes of inmates, including those serving time for serious and violent felonies. He acknowledged, though, that he did not contact Gascón or any of his prosecutors to get firsthand information.

“It’s very hard to get a phone call with a high-level person,” he said.

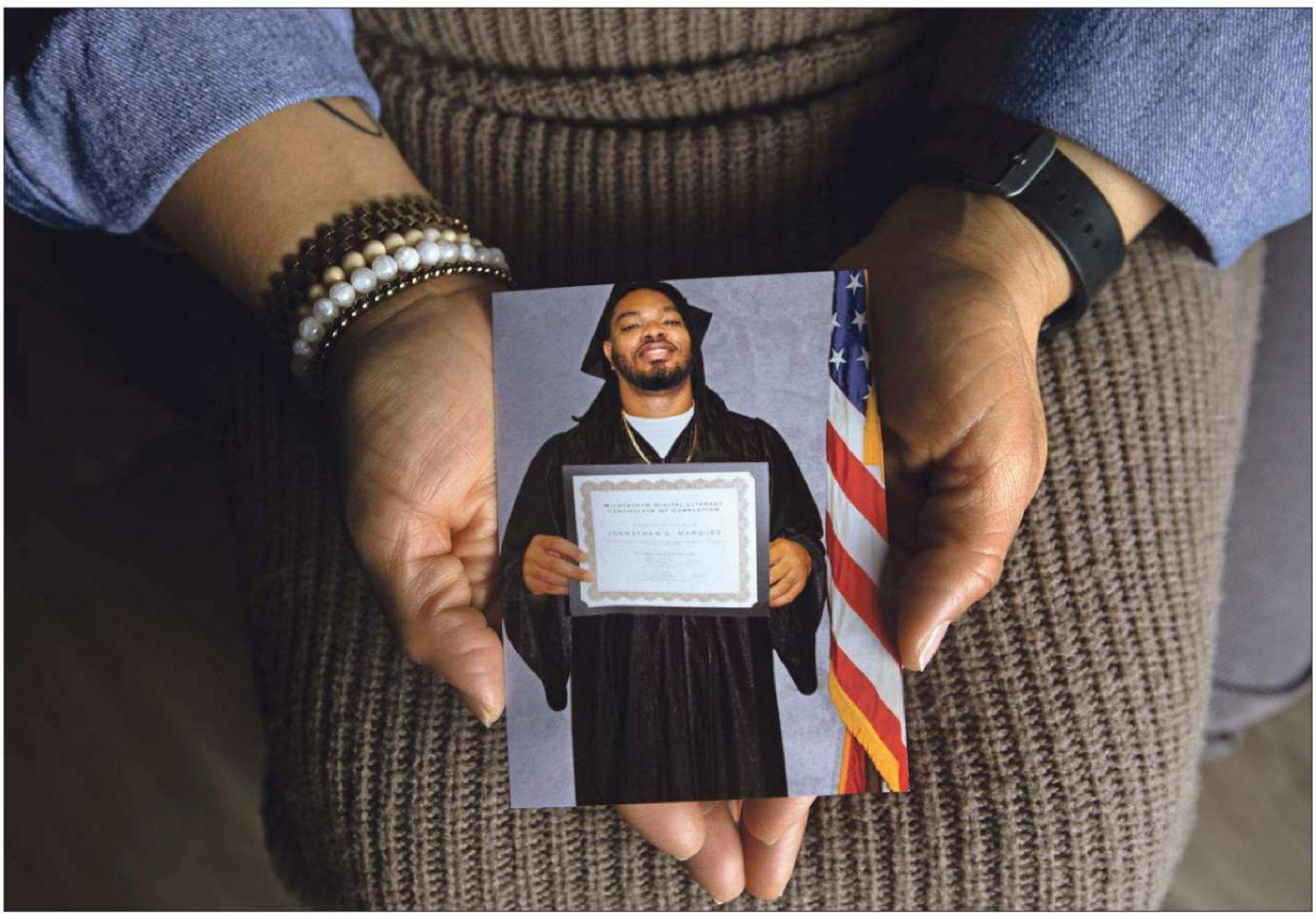
Asked recently by The Times about its approach to resentencing for violent offenders, Gascón’s office said in a statement, “As a general rule, a person convicted of murder or another violent or serious crime is not regarded by our office as a good candidate for resentencing absent unusual or extraordinary circumstances … .”

More than two years into office, Gascón’s resentencing unit has recommended about 60 people, or about 0.2% of the L.A. prison population, for resentencing, according to a list of cases provided by his office. Most were

[See **Lawyer,** A12]

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

AMANDA ALLEN, whose then-husband, Johnte, was serving life without parole for murder, was impressed by Spolin Law’s promotional material. “It was just the whole headline,” she recalled. “He said he was the top attorney.”



Francine Orr Los Angeles Times

KAREN MARQUEZ holds a photo of her huband, Johnathan. She said Spolin Law gave her the impression he would be eligible for resentencing.

[**Lawyer,** from A11]

for nonviolent crimes.

Many families continued to believe the D.A. was evaluating their cases, and Spolin encouraged this belief in form letters telling them, “No news is good news, as the delay may indicate they are conducting a thorough review of your case and the documentation we sent.”

In May 2022 — a year and a half after Spolin started billing families to pitch Gascón cases for resentencing — one relative grew frustrated and decided to go straight to the D.A.’s office himself. The man, who had paid Spolin about $11,000 on behalf of his incarcerated son, was connected with Diana Teran, the director in charge of Gascón’s resentencing unit. She explained that the office was identifying cases on its own and didn’t need outside suggestions, according to their email correspondence.

The man pressed her to look for the packet from Spolin, but she couldn’t locate it, and as they communicated further, it emerged that the mailing address the law firm had used was incorrect. Packets were not going to Teran’s department, but to another office in the large downtown headquarters, according to their emails and subsequent correspondence with Spolin.

Unsettled, the inmate’s father emailed the Spolin firm about the mistake, even providing him Teran’s direct email address, the correspondence shows.

The information raised the possibility that hundreds of packets for which families had paid dearly were languishing unread somewhere on Temple Street.

Spolin himself didn’t reach out to Teran. Instead, the job fell to a paralegal assistant working remotely from a small city northwest of Atlanta. She had no legal education and was balancing her duties at the firm with gigs as a ukulele and voice instructor, according to an online resume.

“We recently received information indicating that all requests for resentencing should be submitted to your specific department,” Jessica McRee wrote to Teran. “Do all of our resentencing requests need to be resubmitted to your department? We were also wondering if there is a way to check on the status of previously submitted [resentencing] requests.”

Teran responded the same day: “I do not know where your requests may have gone as the District Attorneys Office has received thousands of them and does not have the staff to respond to all of them which is why we posted information regarding the process on our website.”

The D.A.’s office announced a change to its policy in November, saying people who did not fit the resentencing unit’s criteria could ask head deputy district attorneys for review. Of the very few that have been granted, none have been submitted by Spolin.

“He’s inundated the entire office,” said Bobby Grace, an assistant head deputy in South L.A. who estimated he had received about a hundred packets from Spolin. “His name is on everyone’s lips and not in a good way.”

Packets sent in by Spolin recently are often “boilerplate,” he said, and lack information about whether an inmate has gotten into trouble in prison, a key factor for him in evaluating whether they deserve consideration.

“A lot of these people could be weeded out by them quickly,” he said. “They had real disciplinary problems that he didn’t address … .”

Told he was charging up to $12,700 for the submissions, Grace appeared stunned: “Seriously? Wow.”

Spolin, informed of the prosecutor’s criticism of the quality of his submissions, pledged to improve and said, “I appreciate the feedback.”

He has submitted hundreds of resentencing packets to district attorneys around the state. The Times asked him whether any had been successful. He pointed to one: a man in L.A. County whom he identified only by the initials J.G. The Times determined the man’s identity and contacted him.

“That’s not true,” said Johnny Guevara, released last year after serving 24 years for a carjacking and kidnapping he committed at age 14. “I give Aaron Spolin zero credit.”

He said his single mother saved money from babysitting and other odd jobs to pay Spolin about $13,000, but the submission to the D.A.’s office in 2021 got no response. (Spolin subsequently confirmed Guevara was J.G.)

Months later, corrections officials identified Guevara as a youth offender who met the D.A. criteria and Gascon’s office asked a legal clinic at Loyola Law school to represent him and about 60 other similar inmates for free. The packet prepared by professor Christopher Hawthorne and his students formed the basis of the decision to recommend him for resentencing last year, the D.A.’s office and the professor confirmed.

“This is the first I’m hearing of almost all of this,” Spolin said when pressed for an explanation. He said he still considered the case “a win” for his firm because they had sent the district attorney a lengthy packet about Guevara and “it’s reasonable to assume it went into his file.”

Once released, Guevara demanded Spolin return his fees.

“I told him, ‘Aaron, you pretty much took my money, my family’s money and I deserve to get some back,’ ” he said. Eventually, he said, the firm reimbursed the family $4,000.

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After the governor commuted the sentences of 21 inmates in June 2020, Spolin heralded his connection to one of the fortunate inmates, James Heard.

“California Governor Gavin Newsom has announced the commutation [reduction] of sentence for a Spolin Law client who was previously serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole,” his law firm crowed in a post on its website, adding, “The client’s family was extremely happy to hear this good news.”

> ‘They painted a picture like they had experience with this and they have had people resentenced successfully and who are now out and free.’
>
> — Karen Marquez, whose husband is serving 75 years to life

Reached in the state prison in Lancaster, Heard said the law firm’s claimed connection to his commutation was “intentionally misleading.”

“The firm did not do that for me,” said Heard, who is awaiting a parole hearing. “I’m the one who did my commutation, my entire commutation packet. I filed it and everything.”

His family hired Spolin without his knowledge to do a case review shortly before the commutation came through, Heard said. He had submitted the application to the governor’s office years earlier.

He said he learned Spolin was using him as a marketing tool from other inmates, “strangers I didn’t know, saying, ‘Is your name James Heard? Do you know about Spolin? You are on his website.’ ”

It bothered him, he said, adding of Spolin, “You are intentionally misleading people. You are not telling them we didn’t represent him in this matter.”

Asked about Heard, Spolin said he had never claimed to have prepared the commutation application and that the purpose of the blog post was to “celebrate the client’s big win and show how Gavin Newsom is granting commutations even on murder cases.”

The $3,000 case reviews Spolin’s firm produces give families an encouraging view of commutations, based in part on 283 commutations under Gov. Jerry Brown, including people convicted of murder.

“Therefore, pardons and commutations are a very real possibility for all types of inmates,” the case reviews inform families.

Newsom has granted 123 commutations as governor, including for murder and other violent crimes. While some experts say they aren’t against private attorneys charging for commutation applications, they were adamant that clients need to be told that the chances of success for any individual inmate remain minuscule.

Spolin routinely recommends proceeding with these applications at a cost of as much as $14,700, according to applications reviewed by The Times and interviews with people familiar with the firm’s filings. Spolin did not identify any clients for whom he had filed successful commutation applications and The Times was not able to find any.

He said he does not urge all of his clients to pursue commutations. “When we recommend it, based on the information we have at the time, they do have a chance,” he said.

Spolin offered package deals to some families. They could pay about $18,000, and he would prepare two very similar packets of information about an inmate — one would be sent to D.A.’s offices for resentencing and another to the governor for commutations. The packets ran hundreds of pages, but much of the material was made up of articles about the problem of mass incarceration that had little to do with the particular applicant.

Families paid for applications for inmates that commutation experts said would never be given serious consideration. One that Spolin submitted this year was for a man who had been sentenced only two years earlier for attempted murder and assault. Several others had records of recent serious disciplinary problems in prison, including fighting, that people familiar with commutations said would make them unsuitable in the governor’s eyes.

The wife of one prisoner who said she dug into her 401(k) to pay Spolin’s fees repeatedly pressed the firm about whether the disciplinary write-ups in her husband’s “C-file” or prison record could be a problem for getting a commutation.

“In regard to the Governor’s review of [the prisoner’s] C-File, it is up to their discretion what they will be reviewing,” a Spolin Law assistant told her in January.

Katharine Tinto, a UC Irvine clinical law professor who runs the school’s criminal justice clinic and has prepared successful commutation applications for free, said the governor’s office looks closely at the prisoner’s record and “if the person has a disciplinary history in prison that is recent and serious, he is very unlikely to get a commutation.”

Jesus Del Villar, a Corcoran inmate about a decade into a 37-year sentence for manslaughter and other offenses, had much more than a poor disciplinary record when Spolin submitted his name for commutation this year. He had admitted in federal court last spring to running a drug ring from his cell.

“The defendant used contraband cellphones to direct other members of the conspiracy to weigh, package, conceal and transport ounces of cocaine and pounds of methamphetamine and heroin from sources of supply to drug distributors,” read the plea agreement Del Villar signed in April 2022.

It was unclear who paid Spolin’s bill of about $9,500. Del Villar did not return messages, including one relayed through a relative.

“He absolutely deserves it,” Spolin said in response to questions about Del Villar’s suitability. “The fact that he has not had a perfect environment in the prison is not one that should disqualify him.”

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Nguyen Le Nguyen was 17 years into a sentence for murder when his family hired Spolin. His relatives did not speak English fluently, he said, and had been talked into paying about $23,000 for legal services, including some he did not need — such as a petition arguing that he was innocent.

“I would never file for actual innocence,” he said recently, noting that he had pleaded guilty in the San Jose killing and that he was preparing to go before the parole board and outline his remorse. “I said ‘Don’t go forward,’ but [Spolin Law] said it’s done. They charged me anyhow.”

There was one service that did fit Nguyen’s situation — resentencing under the reform law that applied to certain homicide convictions. On the day of Nguyen’s hearing, Spolin sent a contract attorney who had not read recent case law on the reform and argued a theory that didn’t fit the circumstances of the shooting, a transcript of the proceeding showed. The resentencing request was denied.

A court-appointed attorney later argued for a new hearing partly on the basis of ineffective counsel, noting, “There is no conceivable reason for counsel not to have sufficiently familiarized himself with the facts of the present case.” The appellate court sided with Nguyen though it did not weigh in on Spolin Law’s performance.

Nguyen was released on parole in January. Before he walked out of Folsom, he typed up a complaint against Spolin on his prison-issued tablet and asked that it be forwarded to the State Bar of California.

Spolin declined to discuss Nguyen’s case in detail, but said, “We did not take advantage of Mr. Nguyen’s family… . There was definitely no intention to send someone who didn’t know the facts of the case.”

Nguyen’s complaint was one of several attempts over the years to get authorities to look into Spolin. In October, a frustrated appellate attorney in Oakland contacted the L.A. County D.A. office to request a criminal fraud investigation of the law firm.

“I have attached materials regarding his business practices generally … so you can see proof of what I believe is a sophisticated scheme to convince desperate families to pay thousands of dollars for sentencing relief [for] loved ones that simply does not exist,” wrote Jenny Brandt, who now works for the Alameda County public defender.

Gascón’s office does not appear to have opened a criminal probe, but it subsequently reported Spolin to the State Bar. By December, that agency had launched an investigation into Spolin’s firm, according to correspondence shared with The Times.

Several attorneys alarmed about Spolin’s practice said they had met with the State Bar’s top prosecutor, Chief Trial Counsel George Cardona, to lay out their concerns.

“The State Bar is expending significant resources into its investigation” of Spolin, an agency prosecutor, Akili Nickson, wrote in an April 10 update to one lawyer shared with The Times. “Mr. Cardona has assigned an entire team of prosecutors and investigators to the matter. The investigation is robust and involves close cooperation of our law enforcement partners.”

Spolin said some appellate attorneys complaining about him are upset about losing clients to his firm.

“We have been more and more successful. We’ve taken work away from them. We’ve negatively impacted many of their incomes,” he said.

The complaints haven’t stopped Spolin from courting inmates and their families. Allen, the convicted murderer from Bakersfield who rejected Spolin’s suggestions three years ago, said he received an unsolicited letter from him in March offering different services.

“Now he’s a habeas expert,” Allen said sarcastically.

In recent months, Spolin has started recommending families pursue a new reform passed last year that allows inmates to challenge their convictions on racial discrimination grounds. The cost quoted is $24,700.

Slowly building a life outside of prison, Nguyen said he remained angry at Spolin. What bothered him most, he said, was how the lawyer “violated” the bonds between inmates and the loved ones who never give up on them, no matter how long the sentence.

“Our families love us,” he said, his voice cracking. “They help us the best they can.”

Times staff writers Matthew Ormseth and Brittny Mejia contributed to this report.

‘We’re going to be seeing Pete Aguilar for a very long time’

KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

REP. PETE AGUILAR, seen speaking in the House in January, is part of a newer, younger vanguard of Democratic leaders. His appointment to the Jan. 6 committee led to a new level of prominence and credibility.

IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

AGUILAR, the third-highest-ranking Democrat in the House, speaks with a resident in San Bernardino.

[**Aguilar,** from A1]

lands mayor became Congress’ highest-ranking Latino stems from why then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi chose him for the Jan. 6 committee, which led one of the highest-profile inquiries since the Watergate scandal took down President Nixon. Friends and foes alike note his tranquil demeanor, openness to differing viewpoints, and reputation for offering counsel to colleagues expressing complaints, concerns and compliments.

Partially because of his demeanor and the decidedly moderate part of the state he represents, Aguilar is far from an ideological warrior duking it out over culture-war issues. Instead, he’s part of a House coalition known for its pro-business bent and recently was the highest-ranking Democrat to join Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) for a meeting with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

When it came to speaking up for democracy and the peaceful transition of power, Aguilar was resolute. And on the Jan. 6 committee, which had been stocked with lawyers and members schooled in past oversight battles, he was an eager participant but a deferential listener.

“There were times when things would start to go off the rails and Pete was always someone I could turn to, to get back on the rails. He was just very pragmatic,” said Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose), a member of the select committee on the Jan. 6 attack who has served for nearly three decades in the House.

His tenure in Congress hasn’t necessarily elicited landmark legislation — though not for lack of trying on subjects such as immigration. Still, the Jan. 6 investigation led to a new level of prominence and credibility, the kind of notice that fellow committee members Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) and former Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) are marshaling to run for or explore running for higher office.

Aguilar has his own ideas on how to use that newfound cachet, one more attuned to the longest-serving Republican congressman in California history — Jerry Lewis. Known as the “master of the congressional earmark” during more than three decades in the House that ended in 2013, Lewis brought millions in federal money to his Inland Empire district.

Lewis also was well liked by both his Republican and Democratic colleagues, even in a hyperpartisan climate in Washington that rivaled the animosity seen today. While serving in the California Legislature in the 1970s, Lewis crafted legislation that established the South Coast Air Quality Management District to fight smog in the L.A. Basin and backed a shield law, an amendment to the state Constitution allowing reporters to maintain the confidentiality of news sources.

Claremont McKenna political science professor Jack Pitney worked for Lewis and recalled, how at his funeral, Aguilar spoke glowingly of a man who rose to be the powerful House Appropriations Committee’s chair and head the House Republican Caucus.

“He talked about their long-standing friendship going back to when he was mayor of Redlands,” Pitney said of Aguilar. “It’s no coincidence they got along so well, because Jerry was pretty much like that too. He was not a cultural warrior. He had a conservative voting record, but he made a point of befriending people on the Democratic side.”

Along with House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) and Minority Whip Katherine Clark (D-Mass.), Aguilar is part of a newer, younger vanguard of Democratic leaders who replaced septuagenarian and octogenarian counterparts.

Aguilar said he is content with his station in Congress. He said statewide office doesn’t appeal to him and, at 43, he’s almost a decade younger than Jeffries and about 15 years younger than Clark.

“It would be great at some point for him to become speaker,” said former Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, a Democrat from Downey. “He’s exactly the kind of person we need as speaker — someone who is respected, trusted and has core values that I think all of us could support.”

Normally agile in answering questions, Aguilar responded cautiously when a Times reporter read back Roybal-Allard’s comments. He reiterated his excitement to eventually serve a “Speaker Jeffries” and quickly pivoted to how McCarthy — the recently elected speaker — so craved the post that he bowed to the far-right corner of the GOP congressional caucus in January to win enough votes to become third in line to the presidency.

“I don’t think Hakeem is going to do this job for 20 years like Pelosi did,” Aguilar said of becoming speaker.

“Come find me in 12 years after he does this, and we’ll talk. It’s nothing I yearn for, to be honest with you,” he said, before adding: “Maybe I shouldn’t say that.”

Aguilar grew up in San Bernardino and Yucaipa, the son of a Southern California Gas Co. district manager who later divorced from his mother. He once told a reporter that as a kid he wanted “to work for the gas company like my dad. My mom had made me a uniform to match my dad and I wore it all the time.”

Aguilar’s interest in politics and current events began when the Exxon Valdez oil supertanker spewed nearly 11 million gallons of oil into Alaska’s coastal waters.

A 9-year-old Aguilar studied the San Bernardino Sun every day and was entranced by nightly news coverage of the disaster. Upset, he wrote a letter to Exxon’s chief executive that included a petition telling the company to clean up the spill and take responsibility. He gathered signatures from neighbors, classmates and teachers.

Aguilar arrived at University of Redlands as a member of the golf team and became popular on campus. He ran the local Habitat for Humanity chapter and was a regular presence at the basketball team’s games. Friends recall his penchant for heckling opposing teams and referees.

His ability to convene people and unite them started on campus, said his wife, Alisha Aguilar — a fellow classmate who now works as an administrator at the school.

“He always wanted to be in the middle of things. He went to all the basketball games,” she said. “He definitely went out a lot, had a lot of friends and had a lot of fun. He will tell you that our paths didn’t really cross because he was very popular and I was very smart, and so we didn’t really have a lot of overlap in our friend group.”

An internship in the nation’s capital with a Redlands alum also helped ignite his passion for politics. He attended the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles at a moment when Josiah Bartlet, the loquaciously liberal president on the popular television show “The West Wing,” was a cultural touchstone.

The show was appointment viewing for Aguilar and his friends and presaged a politics that was above partisanship and high on idealism.

Aguilar, who after graduating went to work for Gov. Gray Davis’ Inland Empire district office, loved the show to the point of obsession.

He and roommate Kevin Dyerly hosted “West Wing Wednesday,” where friends would crowd into their home. Beer, chips and salsa would be served with the volume cranked high.

“We just said, ‘Look, you can come early and hang out and have a good time. You can stay late, but from 9 to 10, you’re quiet and you’re watching,’ ” Dyerly recalled. “We did that for a couple of years living together.”

The show has lost some of its luster in recent years, particularly throughout the Trump presidency as the neoliberal optimism it espoused fell out of fashion. For a 20-something Aguilar, it was an influential guide to a career that until then seemed mysterious.

“I don’t know if I would be doing this without ‘The West Wing,’ ” Aguilar said. “I thought that it captured the idealism of working in those jobs that was really, really cool to me.”

After working for Davis, Aguilar became director of governmental affairs for Arrowhead Credit Union in San Bernardino County. Around this time he also managed the campaign for a regional highway tax measure.

Then, in 2006, a seat on the Redlands City Council opened up when a member resigned.

Eleven people applied for the post, and after three rounds of voting on the appointment by the City Council, Aguilar prevailed and, at 26, became the city’s youngest councilman ever. Alisha — who had just given birth to their first child — also had encouraged him to put his hat in the ring.

As a council member and later mayor, Aguilar proved to be an adept fundraiser who advocated for economic development projects, touted his work cutting down the number of city commissions and balanced the budget.

In 2012, as has been the case throughout his career in politics, an unexpected opportunity opened up. Lewis retired and his newly drawn congressional district was more favorable to Democratic candidates.

Aguilar entered a crowded primary full of ambitious Democrats and, in the end, won only a valuable lesson in humility.

The Democratic candidates splintered their party’s vote, allowing two Republicans to make it out of the primary and Rep. Gary Miller to prevail. Aguilar returned to the City Council.

“I hate losing anything — board games with the kids or running for federal office,” Aguilar said. “It hurt. I think what also kind of hurt at the time was the Monday morning quarterbacking.”

Aguilar ran again in 2014. Chastened, he launched his campaign earlier to help with fundraising and provide more time for door-to-door politicking. The competitive nature of the district meant that figures such as then-Vice President Biden and former President Clinton joined him on the stump against a Republican who had beaten him in the nonpartisan primary.

After the 4-point victory in 2014, he’s been reelected four more times. He also joined the New Democrat Coalition of pro-business Democrats.

“Mayors have a special sort of experience. They’ve got to make things work. They’ve got to deal with all the council people. They have got to deal with the citizens. They have got to deal with everybody. Pete brought that with him to Congress,” said Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), who served as House majority leader under Pelosi.

For Aguilar, the Jan. 6 committee provided a venue for the political idealism he’d seen decades before on “The West Wing.”

During his relatively short time in office he has looked for ways to inhabit that bipartisan comradeship inhabited on the show and untangle the political knot that has been immigration. His hope since arriving had been to find consensus on issues he cared about.

It was the closest he came to doing something big, bold and bipartisan. In 2018, Aguilar, former Texas Rep. Will Hurd and several other moderate Republicans with large Latino constituencies united to find a path to citizenship for the millions of immigrants who had been brought to America as children.

Known as “Dreamers,” there was a brief moment of bipartisan support to find a way to help a group that had won a temporary reprieve during the Obama administration.

But the opportunity fizzled and their effort failed.

Aguilar expressed frustration about not being able to overcome ideological divides and procedural intransigence of Congress such as the filibusterer. Hurd’s exasperation over the divisiveness in Congress led him to not run again in 2020.

Still, Hurd observed in Aguilar someone with the capacity, he thought, to eventually bridge some of the monumental divides in Congress.

“The difference within Democratic leadership circles and Republican leadership circles is Republicans change quite often,” Hurd said.

“That doesn’t happen on the Democratic side. So I think we’re going to be seeing Pete Aguilar for a very long time.”

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Jackson Gibbs For The Times

YOU DO ADU

How do you pay for an extra unit?

Unless you have cash on hand, you'll need to line up the financing. Bank loans, grants and even startups are options worth exploring.

By Jon Healey

Once you've decided to build an accessory dwelling unit, the real fun starts: finding a way to pay for it.

That won't be an issue if you've got enough money in the bank to buy a Ferrari — go ahead and start interviewing contractors. Everyone else will have to line up some kind of financing to cover not just the price of labor and materials but also planning and permitting costs.

"We see very few ADUs completed for less than a couple hundred thousand dollars at this point," said Alex Czarnecki, chief executive of the design-build firm Cottage.

He said homeowners should expect to spend $20,000 to $30,000 on the design and permitting process alone.

And if you think inflation is bad at the grocery store, just wait until you see how prices have climbed in the construction industry. According to Verisk Analytics, labor and materials costs increased more than 11% in 2021 and 9% in 2022, driven largely by volatile lumber prices. Construction labor costs went up 34% over the last five years, Verisk found.

Making matters worse, interest rates are several percentage points higher than they were in the middle of the pandemic. But that increase cuts both ways; because full-sized homes are even less affordable now for young adult first-time buyers, parents are increasingly building ADUs to provide housing for their grown children.

"Higher interest rates, in a strange way, are a tailwind to the ADU business," said Anthony Dedousis of Revival Homes, a Los Angeles-based firm that helps homeowners find financing and contractors for their ADU projects.

Although higher interest rates may not be dissuading people from putting an ADU on their property, they sure aren't helping.

"It is considerably more difficult to get financing now" than it was before interest rates jumped, said Danny Shuster of Los Angeles-based Construction & Consulting Services. "There are still programs out there; they're just not as affordable. The money is not as cheap."

Meanwhile, he said, banks have become more tightfisted. Many borrowers are qualifying for half of what they could have borrowed a year ago, forcing them to scale back their ADU ambitions.

If you need help figuring out your options, there are multiple places to turn. A good starting point is the website of a nonprofit housing advocacy group such as the Casita Coalition, which offers a comprehensive guide to ADU financing. There are also counselors certified by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and groups such as Long Beach-based HPP Cares that offer advice on how to pay for an ADU.

These services can bring a much-needed dose of realism to your ADU plans.

"That's a huge thing for us, making sure that someone has a realistic budget, making sure someone knows about the financing options that are out there to help them and making sure … they're going to build the right type of ADU," said Renée Schomp, former director of the Napa Sonoma ADU Center.

A Google search will also turn up plenty of financing choices being touted by financial services companies. And then there are consultants like Revival Homes and builders like Shuster's firm that will guide customers through the process of obtaining funding.

One thing to remember if you're counting on rental income to help pay back your debt: In Los Angeles and many other cities, you cannot use your new ADU for rentals of less than 30 days. That's right: No Airbnb. And though your new ADU probably won't be subject to rent control, you may have to comply with other local renter protections.

Here is a breakdown of some of the paths you can take to finance an ADU project, assuming that your petty cash fund is, in fact, petty.

Bank loans

There is a seemingly endless variety of loans, but Dedousis said "there isn't really a lending product on the market right now that is specifically designed for ADUs." As a result, he said, "you kind of have to shoehorn an ADU into an existing home-finance product. That can work for some people."

One problem for banks is that ADUs are a relatively new phenomenon — at least, ADUs built with permits are — so there's a limited amount of data about an ADU's effect on property values. The more conservative the appraisal, the less a bank will be willing to lend for the project, potentially forcing you to scale back or abandon your plans.

Your income also determines how much you can borrow, and builders say that few lenders are willing to factor in the income you could collect from the ADU you're building. One impediment is the stance of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the two biggest buyers of housing-related loans, whose guidelines don't allow lenders to consider future ADU rents, said Susan Brown, CEO of housing consultancy CoreSGB in North Plains, Ore.

Freddie Mac has adapted its guidelines to support some loans used to build new ADUs or renovate old ones. But even under those guidelines, borrowers can't factor in ADU rental income unless they have a lease signed before their first mortgage payment is due.

Within those constraints, local banks and their online counterparts offer several pots of money that can be used to build an ADU. Which one works best for you will depend on your income, home equity level and current home mortgage.

Cash-out refinancing. The simplest way to finance an ADU may be to do a "cash out" refinancing of your home mortgage, which rolls the unpaid balance of your current loan into a new loan that would also cover the cost of the ADU. The interest rate tends to be a little higher than a 30-year mortgage, but it's often lower than other types of bank financing. The closing costs can be substantial though.

This option is available mainly to people who've built up a lot of equity in their home.

The idea of exchanging a mortgage obtained when rates were 3% or lower for a new one at more than 6% is unappealing, to put it mildly. But Larry Clinton, senior vice president of Infinity Lending Services in Redlands, said the main thing to consider is how much the higher rate compares with the return you'll get on your investment. In other words: How long will it take to offset your costs with rental income from the ADU? Or if you're building the ADU to avoid putting your father in assisted living, how do the costs compare with the savings?

He also said that lenders can work with you and your builder to find ways to lower the interest costs on your loan.

The more you owe on your mortgage, the more you'll be hurt by swapping a low interest rate for a higher one. The pain may be temporary, however. The bet you'll be making is that interest rates will come down fairly soon, allowing you to refinance your new mortgage at a rate that's closer to the one you'd be giving up in the cash-out refinancing today.

Home equity loan or line of credit. Many homeowners have seen an enormous increase in their home equity over the last few years, thanks to the hot housing market. If you want to tap that equity but can't bear to part with your current mortgage, you can finance an ADU with a home equity loan or line of credit. These forms of credit typically carry interest rates a little bit higher than a standard 30-year mortgage or a cash-out refinancing, but the closing costs are lower.

A home equity loan (also called a second mortgage) is a lump sum you borrow at the start of the project that you hope will be large enough to cover all your bills. A home equity line of credit lets you borrow in increments to pay bills as they come in, delaying the onset of interest charges and keeping the amount borrowed (and the total interest owed) to a minimum. But the interest rate charged by a HELOC may change with each increment.

The issue with these methods, as with cash-out refinancings, is that they won't cover the cost of an ADU unless you have built up a significant amount of equity in your home. Most are capped at 80% or 90% of the value of your home, minus your current mortgage balance. "That leaves new homeowners — even if they're good credit risks, even if they have relatively high incomes — a bit high and dry," Dedousis said.

Construction loans. These are short-term loans with interest rates that are usually one or more percentage points higher than the going rate for mortgages. The loan is paid out in stages to your contractor as the work is performed.

Monthly payments stay low because you're not trying to pay down the loan; instead, when the ADU is finished, you'll need to pay off the (very large) balance or roll it over into a conventional mortgage. Some construction loans even convert automatically to a mortgage, saving you from having to pay closing costs twice.

A construction loan often will require a down payment of 20% or more, which means you'll have to cover a significant portion of the project cost yourself. And getting approved can be trickier — the loan won't be secured by your house, and an appraiser has to determine that the ADU will add at least as much value as the loan amount.

If you shop around, though, you can find ADU construction loans that are more affordable than the typical offer. For example, the nonprofit Napa Valley Community Foundation partnered with Redwood Credit Union to develop a below-market-rate construction loan (4.375% on a 20-year loan as of late March).

The credit union factors in future income and property appreciation from the ADU to enable lower-income and lower-equity homeowners to qualify for loans large enough to build their project, said Schomp, of the Napa Sonoma ADU Center. "This is a pilot product, so we're still waiting to see how effectively it catalyzes the market," she said.

Renovation loans. A type of unsecured personal loan, these carry a considerably higher interest rate than a mortgage. According to Bankrate.com, they range from 6.5% to 36%, depending on your income, debts and credit rating.

The main advantages are that the approval process is speedy and the fees are low.

Public aid

In addition to making it easier to get permits for an ADU, state lawmakers sought to help lower-income Californians clear some of the financial hurdles to building one. Last year the state created a $100-million grant program for low- and moderate-income Californians to cover up to $40,000 in planning and permitting costs.

Although those dollars have all been spoken for, the grant program is due to receive an additional $50 million in the current fiscal year. That money is on hold, however, while the California Housing Finance Agency studies other potential sources of funding for the program.

The fate of the grants may hinge on whether state officials can drum up support for them from foundations and other private-sector sources.

Neither the city nor the county of Los Angeles currently provides grants for ADU construction. But on a smaller scale, Office of: Office, an L.A.-based urban planning and design firm, operates the Backyard Homes program to help homeowners build ADUs in exchange for a commitment to house low-income Angelenos.

Pasadena has a Second Unit ADU Program that provides financial assistance for ADUs, whether new or upgraded from an unpermitted unit. The program's website said it's closed to new applications at the moment, but it was tentatively scheduled to reopen this spring.

Some other cities and counties are still offering to directly subsidize the construction of ADUs.

Personal assets

Dipping into your savings and investments to cover at least part of the cost of an ADU could make sense, but it's not a simple decision. In fact, just thinking about the variables involved could make your brain hurt.

What you're trying to do is compare what your savings could earn if left where they are against what you could save in interest payments and what you could gain from higher property values. But unless your money is invested in something with a fixed return, like a certificate of deposit, or parked somewhere that pays no interest, like a checking account or a mattress, you don't know what your future earnings will be. Instead, you have to look at how similar investments have performed in the past. For example, large company stocks have grown almost 6.3% per year in value since 2000, not adjusting for inflation.

Similarly, you don't know how much your property value will increase after your ADU is built. Property values have skyrocketed in L.A. County over the last decade, growing by about 8% per year on average. But it's been a bumpy ride at times; median home sale prices were about 12% lower in December 2022 than they'd been in May.

One other complication is taxes. If you cash out an investment that has grown over time, you'll owe taxes on the increase in value (i.e., the capital gain) of up to 20% on *both* your federal and state returns. That makes the idea of using savings to reduce your loans less appealing.

If you have a 401(k), your employer may allow you to borrow from it to build your ADU. Under IRS rules, the loans must be repaid within five years. They're also capped at $50,000 or half of your vested amount, whichever is lower.

The distinct advantage of tapping your 401(k) is that the interest you pay on the loan will go back into your account, not to a bank or other lender.

But unless the interest rate is at least as high as the returns on your 401(k) investments, you'll end up reducing your retirement savings over the long term. And if you don't pay the loan back on time, the remaining balance would be taxed as ordinary income and, if you're less than 59½ years old, subject to an additional 10% penalty for early withdrawal.

Brown said you could cobble together a bunch of short-term help — for example, borrowing from relatives, taking out a 401(k) loan and maxing out your credit cards — then pay it all back by refinancing your mortgage with additional debt to cover your ADU costs. And if you do it this way, she said, Freddie Mac's guidelines will allow lenders to factor in the rental income from your newly built ADU.

Equity financing

Several tech-oriented startups offer cash in exchange for some of the future value of your home. The type of financing offered by the likes of Point, Hometap, Unlock and Unison is called "shared equity," and the money you'll receive isn't a loan — these companies are investing in your house. So you won't have to make monthly payments or worry about interest, but you will give up some of the gains you'd reap when you sell your house for a profit.

"That could work as a last resort," Dedousis said, "but it's a pretty darn expensive way to finance construction." After all, he said, one of the reasons you're building an ADU is to increase the value of your home, and "it's a tough thing to give up some of that upside."

But if you have little equity in your home, limited savings, low income or a lousy credit rating, this approach may be one of your few viable financing options.

Sign up for You Do ADU

Southern Californians are racing to build ADUs, or accessory dwelling units — small, fully equipped homes on the same lot as a larger house. But building an ADU isn't a quick project, nor is it cheap. So before you break out the shovels and start applying for loans, you need to ask yourself a few questions.

That's what You Do ADU is for. This six-week newsletter course will help you make the right decision for you and your property. For more on the newsletter, scan the code with your phone.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Tips for new grads in uncertain times

By Trea Branch

In 2023 alone, there have been more than 118,000 U.S. tech layoffs, according to Crunchbase News, a business publication. That's in addition to two major bank collapses and two federal rate hikes. The class of 2023 will graduate into this economic upheaval while facing another variable: student loan payments.

This can be an overwhelming and confusing time for those set to begin repayment of student debt, said Barry Coleman, vice president of program management and education at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. Coleman cites the expected end of a three-year pause on federal student loan payments, legal challenges to federal student debt relief programs and the potential effect of inflation on the job market as reasons new graduates could feel uneasy.

But new grads don't need to panic. Here's how they can weather a potential recession.

■ Have a plan, no matter the economy

Understanding your student debt is one of the best strategies to stay on top of your loans, regardless of how the economy performs, said Betsy Mayotte, founder of the Institute of Student Loan Advisors.

There is typically a six-month grace period after graduation before you're required to make your first student loan payment. Before this first payment is due, gather details such as the types of loans you have and who holds them, Mayotte said.

■ If you have a job, pay off student debt faster

If you land a job, you have more flexibility. A steady income gives you the opportunity to explore putting more money toward your student loan debt — if you're already contributing to your retirement and emergency savings.

And don't overlook your employer. Twenty-one percent of employers offer company-paid financial services as part of their benefits package, said Jim Link, chief human resources officer for the Society for Human Resource Management. Programs can include access to financial advisors at no cost or even student loan repayment programs.

■ If you don't have a job, know your options

Graduating without a job offer can be terrifying. But with little or no income, you can still take steps to stay on top of your student debt, even in a recession.

Start with your loan servicer, the company that manages your loans. Let it know as early as possible that you're not employed, Coleman said. Ask what your options are to avoid delinquency.

There are many repayment options for federal student loan borrowers, Mayotte said. You can lower your payments — even to zero dollars — with an income-driven repayment plan, or temporarily stop payments through student loan deferment.

Just note that interest can still accrue while in deferment, and this increases your total balance. Once you land a job and you're in a position to repay, do so as soon as possible so you're not facing a significantly larger debt down the road, Coleman said.

It may be worth considering a career with a nonprofit organization or government entity if you have federal student loans. These positions could qualify you for Public Service Loan Forgiveness — under which your remaining student loan balance is forgiven after 10 years of qualifying payments.

■ Get free help managing your debt

You can get student loan help from organizations that won't charge anything, such as the Institute of Student Loan Advisors and the Student Borrower Protection Center.

Whether you're exploring how to pay off your loans faster or how to afford the payments, nonprofit organizations such as those findable through the National Foundation for Credit Counseling can connect you with counselors and help you create an action plan, Coleman said.

Branch writes for personal finance site NerdWallet. This article was distributed by the Associated Press.

MONEY TALK

How to plan with the 50/30/20 budget

By Liz Weston

Dear Liz: What is the formula for expenses? Growing up, we were told that one-third of net income should go to rent; but recently, I read that 50% is the standard, with the remaining 50% divided between wants and savings.

Answer: You may be referring to the 50/30/20 budget, which suggests limiting "must haves" to 50% of after-tax income, leaving 30% for wants and 20% for savings and extra debt payments. (After-tax income is your gross income minus taxes and is often a different figure from your net income.)

The "must haves" category includes housing payments, food, utilities, transportation, minimum loan payments and insurance — costs that would be difficult, expensive or dangerous to forgo temporarily.

Of course, many people find it difficult to limit must-have expenses to recommended levels, especially in high-cost areas. Housing costs can eat up half their incomes or more.

To avoid debt, they may need to reduce other spending, save or find ways to increase their income.

401(k) payouts and Social Security

Dear Liz: I was laid off from my job in late 2021 and at 62 was unable to find employment. After six months of unemployment benefits, I filed for Social Security.

My 401(k) account from my previous employer was rolled into a traditional IRA. I also took a distribution to carry me through the months without unemployment and to repay a 401(k) loan I used as the down payment on my home. I was taxed on the total amount of rollover funds, as well as on the distribution, which seems like I paid tax twice.

All told, it looks like I made a lot of money in 2022. How will this affect my Social Security benefits?

Answer: You don't have to pay tax on the 401(k) funds that were rolled into the traditional IRA. If you have, consult a tax pro about filing an amended return to get that money back.

You may have been confused by the 1099-R tax form issued by your 401(k) provider, which reported the entire amount that left your 401(k) account as a distribution. But only the amount that didn't make it into the IRA is considered taxable.

The taxable distribution isn't considered earned income that would trigger the earnings test. (The earnings test applies to people receiving Social Security before their full retirement age, 66 to 67.)

But distributions can cause more of your Social Security benefit to be taxable. Taxes on Social Security are based on "combined income," which includes your adjusted gross income, plus any nontaxable interest and half your Social Security benefits.

If you're a single filer and your combined income is between $25,000 and $34,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50% of your benefits. If your combined income exceeds $34,000, up to 85% of your benefits may be taxable.

Married couples filing jointly may have to pay income tax on up to 50% of benefits if their combined income is between $32,000 and $44,000; if it's more than $44,000, they may owe tax on up to 85% of their benefits.

A tax pro can help you estimate the effect of future distributions and calculate how much you may need to withhold to avoid penalties.

Liz Weston, Certified Financial Planner, is a personal finance columnist for NerdWallet. Questions may be sent to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon, No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or by using the "Contact" form at asklizweston.com.

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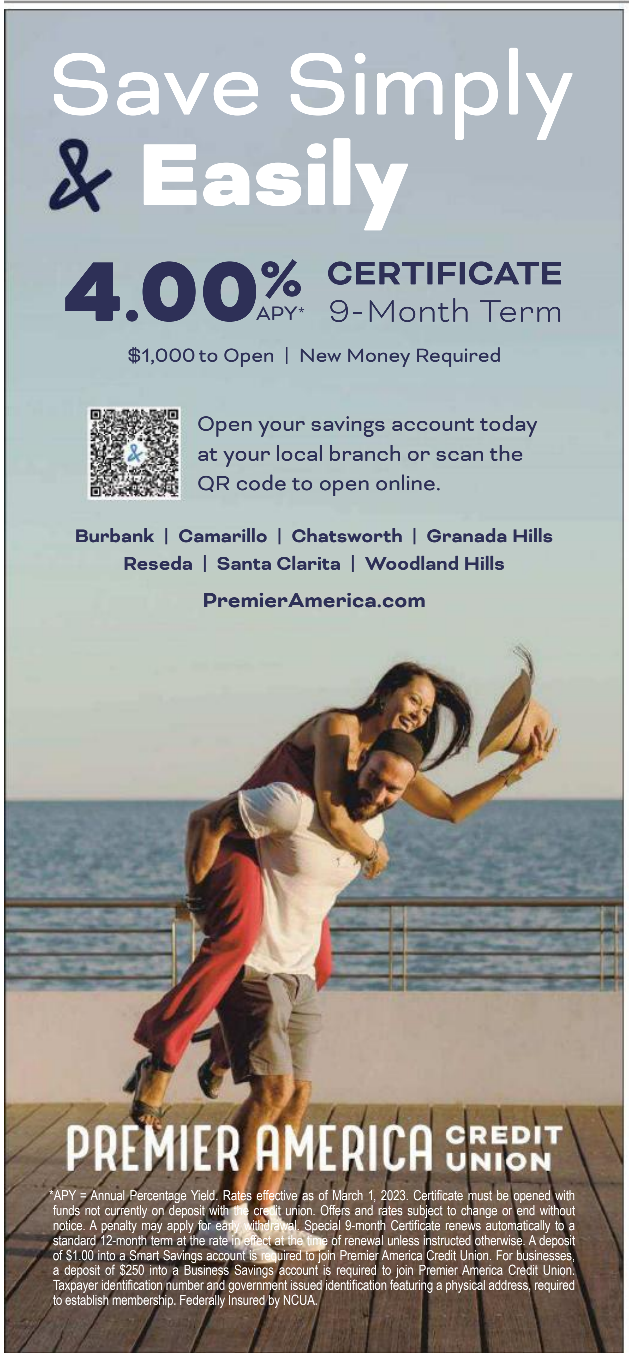

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SAVINGS UPDATE

How to save money with a balance transfer card

By Sabrina Karl

If you're carrying a balance on multiple credit cards, a smart move can be consolidating to a single balance transfer card. This can also work for outstanding medical bills. The key to doing it wisely, so that you save money, is to minimize the interest you'll pay.

First, look for cards offering an initial 0% interest period. These promos often last 12 months, but sometimes you can find offers as high as 21 months. These cards are especially valuable for transferring balances you can fully pay off during the 0% period, avoiding all interest on that balance for a year or more.

What if your balances are bigger than you can pay off over the promo period? While you can obviously keep the remaining balance on the card, you'll be hit with a much higher interest rate after the intro period expires. This later APR may be quite high, and potentially higher than you're paying on your current cards.

A better idea may be to plan more than one transfer. Pay off as much as you can while you're in the 0% period, but before the intro expires, do a new balance transfer on what's left, to a new 0% card.

Alternatively, you could transfer only as much of your balances as you feel confident you can pay off during the 0% period. This at least allows you to avoid all interest on some of your debt.

Sometimes you can find another option: a balance transfer card that offers a low standard interest rate instead of an introductory 0% rate. If your current cards charge 20% on average and you can move the balances to a card offering 11 or 12%, this can still deliver significant cost savings to you over time without having to do another transfer.

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ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

CONVERSATION WITH THE EXPERT: WHAT BUSINESSES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EMPLOYEE BENEFITS IN 2023

This **business advisory** Q&A is produced by the L.A. Times B2B Publishing team in conjunction with Marsh McLennan Agency.

After the many unprecedented operational changes that businesses in virtually every sector had to make over the last three years, a whole new landscape has emerged in the realm of employee benefits. Work-from-home and hybrid office trends, new technological advancements and workforce shortages in many industries have led to a new set of expectations, protocols and best practices when it comes to businesses determining the right benefits packages for their employees.

What should C-suiters and HR professionals be focusing on in terms of new standards?

To take a closer look at the latest developments and trends in the business of employee benefits, we have turned to one of the region's leading authorities, Brian Hegarty of Marsh McLennan Agency, who graciously weighed in for a discussion and shared insights.

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Q: HOW HAS THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LANDSCAPE CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC?

The pandemic accelerated the already-shifting needs of today's workforce. Employees, today, expect more from their employee benefits experience especially as it relates to well-being benefits. Mental and behavioral health are becoming factors in employer's offerings, with things like enhanced employee assistance programs, virtual therapy offerings, and more. Flexibility is also prominent as a priority for today's workforce. Top talent is looking for companies that have some sort of flexible approach to remote work, such as hybrid work arrangements. A more dispersed workforce impacts the way in which we manage and administer benefits programs, with much of the communication being done virtually to reach remote or hybrid workers. We have also seen major changes in healthcare economics. High-cost claimants, increases in utilization, and employment trends will keep healthcare costs on the rise.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY ELEMENTS AN HR TEAM SHOULD CONSIDER WHEN NEGOTIATING INSURANCE PLANS AND BENEFITS PACKAGES THAT WILL BENEFIT BOTH THE EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER?

HR teams have a lot to consider when it comes to insurance plans and benefits packages. Having an insurance broker partner that can help you stay on top of the latest compliance requirements is crucial. While the main priority of HR teams is taking care of their people, protecting your bottom line amidst rising healthcare costs is extremely important. There are certain strategies you can consider such as captives or stop loss coverages that protect your organization and limit volatility. HR teams also want to consider how they can manage rising pharmacy costs. Marsh McLennan Agency offers Rx Solutions – data-driven solutions and ongoing program management to help employers maximize the terms of their pharmacy contract, for example. It's also imperative to take a long-term approach to plan management. Retaining employees with methodical and well-rounded health benefits makes a lasting impact not only on the health of your employees but the health of your business. Having access to data such as employee risk, costs, and trends can be transformed into actionable insights that will drive potential solutions for your organization.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME BEST PRACTICES FOR COMPANIES SEEKING TO RECRUIT NEW TALENT?

In a highly competitive talent market, companies have to adapt and adopt practices that reflect what people really want out of work. More than ever, job seekers are looking for purpose and meaning in work. One-size-fits-all benefits programs are a thing of the past. Offering a broad range of health and voluntary benefits is a great way to demonstrate compassion and purpose, and to provide unique and thoughtful support for your employees and their families. Employers can consider a holistic approach to supporting mental health and well-being – spanning physical, emotional, financial, social and developmental support. Some of the things employers are offering in addition to the traditional medical benefits are hybrid or flexible work policies, fitness memberships, enhanced employee assistance programs, mental health days, paid parental leave and reproductive coverage, financial counseling, company retreats and events, paid volunteer time, business coaching, tuition assistance and more. Marsh McLennan Agency prioritizes finding straightforward, cost-effective ways to offer your employees the benefits they need. Managing shifting employee expectations is a twofold endeavor: consistently communicating with your employees and ensuring you're offering the benefits they're looking for.

Q: HOW IMPORTANT ARE EMPLOYEE MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS IN 2023?

Prioritizing well-being in policies and benefits is critical to developing the workplace resilience employers are seeking. According to a 2022 report by QBE, by 2040, it's expected that 60% of healthcare spending will go toward improving health and wellbeing. Shifting the emphasis from a singular focus on physical health, companies are redefining their approach to wellness by prioritizing mental health as an essential element of total well-being. Well-being, also known as whole-person benefits, will continue to remain at the top of employees' want lists. However, it is far from the only demand employees are making in 2022. Better defining and integrating what flexibility can look like is another key issue employers must continue to consider. Addressing employees' emotional health and well-being will be core to building workplace resilience. Fortune recently noted that nearly 23% of employers have added new mental health benefits. According to a newly released Mercer survey analyzing health and benefits strategies for 2023, strategies for mental health incentives will continue and will now include a stronger focus on behavioral incentives as well. Studies are showing that providing these types of incentives has significant benefits for both the employer and the employee.

Q: HOW HAS THE PRACTICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES BENEFITED FROM TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS AND ADVANCEMENTS?

Effective employee communication meets employees where they are. It's likely that your workforce and your workplace are evolving to include remote or hybrid work options. According to a 2020 Mercer Global survey, 54% of employers plan to accelerate digital channels to reach employees. In our work with clients, we support open enrollment webinars, setting up benefit administration technology platforms, open enrollment videos customized to your company and employees, digital benefits guides, web-based decisionmaking tools and more. Virtual and mobile benefits communications give your employees convenience without sacrificing quality. Apps can be hugely helpful. MMA's iNGAGED app gives employees their benefits information on the go. Having customized digital platforms and helpful technology tools takes the stress out of your benefits administration process so you can focus on more important tasks. If you are interested in exploring solutions like this, don't hesitate to reach out.

> ***"Managing shifting employee expectations is a twofold endeavor: consistently communicating with your employees and ensuring you're offering the benefits they're looking for."***
>
> – Brian Hegarty

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OPINION

EDITORIALS

Stop! Unsafe streets ahead

Culver City built a walkable and bikeable downtown. Why is the council considering a U-turn now?

In 2021, Culver City rolled out one of the most ambitious street redesigns in the region. The idea was simple but radical in an area that has long catered to motorists and become mired in car traffic. Why not carve out space on some streets to make it easier and safer to walk, bike and take transit so residents, workers and visitors don't have to drive?

In the heart of its downtown, near restaurants, apartments, studios and government offices and the Expo Line, Culver City removed car lanes in each direction and replaced them with protected bike and bus-only lanes.

The project, called Move Culver City, was a 1.3-mile pilot project, quickly built for relatively low cost with paint, removable planters and plastic bollards. The goal was to test the theory that if people are given quality transportation choices, they will use them.

And that's what happened.

A review of the project after a year found an 18% increase in people walking and 32% more people biking through the area. At the intersection of Culver Boulevard and Main Street, the number of bikes counted nearly doubled. Bus travel became faster and ridership increased more on the corridor compared with citywide. People said they were biking, walking and taking transit more often in the area, according to the review. They felt safer, more comfortable and noticed fewer speeding cars.

As for traffic? It moved faster in the morning hours, and in the evening it took drivers about two minutes longer to pass through the area. *Two minutes*. That's a minor inconvenience. It certainly seems like a fair trade-off to make the corridor safer and more convenient for alternative modes of transportation — which was the purpose of the project.

But instead of making the changes permanent, a new, more conservative majority on the City Council may roll back the street redesign at its meeting Monday night in response to motorists' complaints that the project has made traffic worse. That would be a shame.

Over the last several years, Culver City has been a model of forward-thinking urban design. Previous leaders recognized the city had transformed into a hub for tech giants and streaming studios, creating thousands of new jobs. But the pace of residential development hadn't kept up. That drove up housing costs and worsened traffic and pollution as commuters drove into the area for work.

The city couldn't widen any more streets (and that doesn't solve traffic anyway) or build more single-family subdivisions. City officials decided to create a denser, transit-friendly, walkable, bikeable center that would allow more people to live in the city and give commuters more options to get to their jobs. The vast majority of Culver City is still car-centric, but this small section shows how urban Los Angeles can build more affordable, equitable and environmentally responsible communities.

Yet even the modest encroachment of Move Culver City may be too much for opponents of the project, who seem particularly offended by the bus lane. There is a proposal to add back a car lane and make buses and bicyclists share a lane, which would dissuade all but the most confident cyclists and slow the buses, thus making alternative modes of transportation a lot less appealing. And for what? So some drivers can get to their destination two minutes faster.

Like most communities across California, Culver City has plenty of plans detailing its commitment to bike lanes, public transit and sustainable city design as strategies to reduce greenhouse gases from vehicle pollution to help fight climate change. But those plans are meaningless if elected leaders don't have the political backbone to see them through.

What's the big deal, you might ask, if one small city rolls back one small bus and bike lane project? It's significant because road redesigns are always going to controversial and challenging in an urban landscape designed for but now overwhelmed by cars.

In Los Angeles, agencies have backed off plans to add protected bike lanes and bus lanes to placate motorists. In 2017, after a teenager was killed crossing Vista del Mar near Dockweiler Beach, the city removed traffic lanes and redesigned the street to make it safer. But commuters browbeat city leaders until they reversed the project. Since then, two more people have been killed by vehicles while crossing the street.

We will never have safe streets and quality transit if the region's political leaders scrap or scale back projects when there is opposition to change.

Move Culver City is a success and a model for a cleaner, greener, more livable region. It would be nice if Culver City leaders could recognize that.

PERSONAL NOTE

I'm ready to trade in my EV

I love my electric vehicle. But even in California, finding reliable public charging is a chore.

I love my electric car. I really do.

I love how I never have to buy gas. I love how it glides quietly up the street. I love that it has so much pickup that I can easily blow past gas-powered muscle cars if I want to. I love having stickers that allow me to drive solo in the HOV lanes. I love that routine maintenance consists of little more than rotating the tires.

But after three years, I am thinking seriously of trading it in for the gas-powered hybrid plug-in version.

Why? Because as much as I love my car, I loathe that I can't travel around California, a state has led the electric car revolution, with confidence that I can get a charge when I need one.

Yes, there are significantly more public charging stations than when I first got behind the wheel of my Kia Niro EV in January 2020. But there are also significantly more electric vehicles vying to use them — and still vast areas of the state without a single fast charger.

Chargers are more reliable now, but still not quite good enough. In 2020, it felt like half the public chargers I tried to use weren't working. These days, I find only about a quarter are out. This jibes with the experience of researchers who checked public fast chargers at 181 charging stations in the Bay Area last year and found that about 23% weren't functional.

Even with more chargers, they still aren't easy to find. I have an app that helps, but it only gives me a general location. Public charging stations are often tucked away in remote corners of parking lots or behind buildings with no helpful signage. They may be accessible only during business hours or, if in a hotel, only for paying guests to use.

It's not uncommon to locate a charging station and discover that all the chargers are in use or blocked by cars not charging. Or, most frustratingly, the chargers may be offline or nonfunctional — which you may not discover until you park, plug in and try to start the charger. And even if the stars align and you find an available charger that works, it may shut off mid-charge with no warning or reason.

When I chose an electrical vehicle, I knew that meant an extra 30 minutes in travel time for each charging stop during a road trip. But I did not count on the time wasted by having to, for example, backtrack to another station or one out of my way because the charging station on my route was not working.

I did not count on having to wait 60 minutes to charge because the fast charger is not charging very fast today. Or having to spend the wait time baking in the sun because the charging station on the side of a hot freeway has no shade. Honestly, who thought that was a good idea? I didn't count on having to download a half-dozen apps because each charger company has its own.

I could fill up a book recounting the many frustrating and absurd experiences I have had charging my car over the last three years and three months — and I haven't even hit 23,000 miles on the car yet.

Things are improving, but if the pace of change over the last three years is an indication of what's in store for the next three years, the policies to push increasing numbers of EVs by California and the Biden administration are in trouble. It's not enough to set sales targets and offer tax credits. If we want people to embrace fully electric cars, we have to make it easier to charge up away from home.

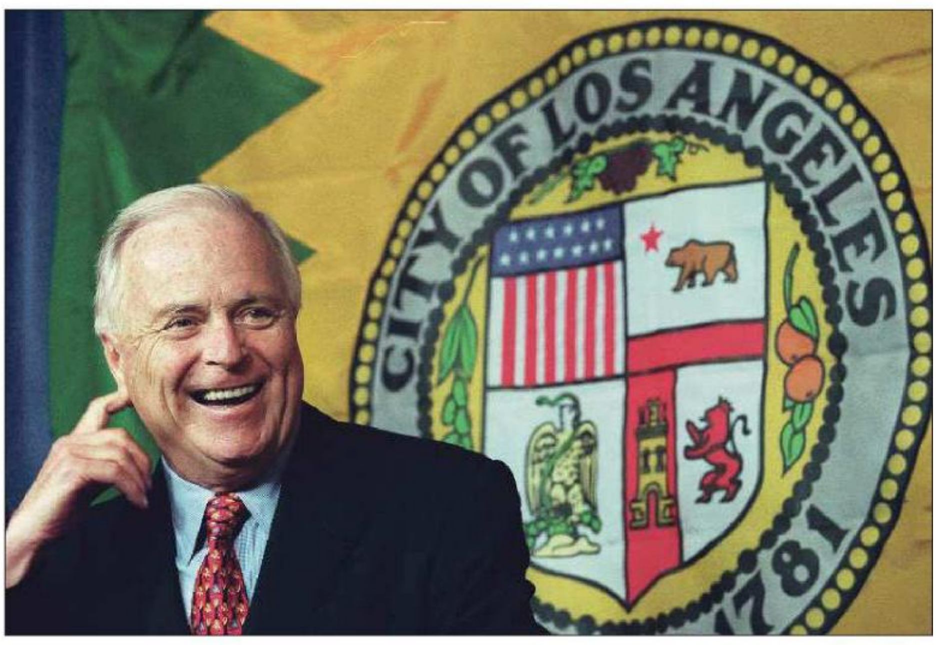
That means mapping out charging stations in a comprehensive, thoughtful way that ensures a reliable and easy-to-use network — not leaving it to the whims of the commercial sector, which will build stations where it's most profitable or convenient. It will require cities to develop plans for how and where to locate public chargers and not just plop them down randomly and call it a day.

As part of the bipartisan infrastructure law, the federal government is spending $7.5 billion to build 500,000 chargers across the nation, which is great. But authorities must take into account the experiences of early adopters like me as they invest. Because if it continues to be this much of a hassle to charge up, it's going to be tough to convince motorists to go green.

I don't know if I will trade in my EV, because I really do love it, charging issues aside. But I'm taking a road trip next month, and if the state of public charging isn't much improved from my last road trip, well, it's going to be hard not to make the switch.

— Mariel Garza,
a member of the editorial board

LETTERS



Rick Meyer Los Angeles Times

RICHARD RIORDAN, the last Republican mayor of Los Angeles and a bicycle enthusiast, is seen in 1999. He died Wednesday at age 92.

Farewell to L.A.'s cycling evangelist

Re "Tireless mayor led L.A.'s recovery from riots, quake," obituary, April 21

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who died April 19, did many wonderful things for the city of Los Angeles. But for many of us, our fondest memories from his time in office were his bike tours.

He'd pick a different area of the city, map out a route and set out at 7 a.m. on a Sunday with 1,000 or more riders. Police would set rolling blockades so we'd have the street to ourselves. T-shirts were distributed. Volunteers passed out drinks and healthy snacks. Sponsors recruited by the mayor's staff footed the bill for all of this.

People from all over the city met, made new friends and explored parts of L.A. they had never seen. And Riordan was right in the middle of it all, sometimes leading the pack, sometimes at the end, but always talking with everyone and having a great time.

If there is a heaven, I'd like to think Riordan is there now, organizing a bike tour.

Murray Levy
Pacific Palisades

Riordan was a genial, dedicated presence in our town of Pacific Palisades.

Long before he acquired Mort's Deli and created the Village Pantry, he would ride his bike from his Brentwood home, braving Sunset Boulevard traffic, to have breakfast at Mort's, where he enjoyed talking with people and holding meetings.

He spent a ton of money overhauling Mort's, but kept the restaurant going in the heart of our business district. Riordan was always accessible at the Village Pantry, shaking hands with well-wishers and taking time to talk to people.

We greatly appreciated his spirit of community.

Bill Bruns
Pacific Palisades

⁘

In the waning days of Riordan's tenure, I asked him if he had any regrets. This is what he told me:

"Charter reform. I put in term limits for the office of mayor. I thought eight years was enough. I didn't realize how slowly government works."

Judy Wilson
Pasadena

The writer is retired director of sanitation for the city of Los Angeles.

⁘

Twenty years ago, while manning the bar at a USC-UCLA football game tailgate, I happened to meet Riordan. With a sloe gin fizz in hand, "Dick" engaged us in banter on matters of college football, Federal Reserve monetary policy and the current read of his book club.

He was the most unpretentious public figure that I have ever met, a true L.A. original.

Cliff Reston
Hollywood Hills

⁘

Riordan officiated at our wedding in February 2008. While the words he said addressed the occasion, he also expressed a view about the city:

"It is in many ways fitting and appropriate that Janet and Dennis have chosen to be married in this fine garden in downtown Los Angeles. This city has always been a place for new beginnings, a place where people felt it possible to re-imagine their lives and pursue their dreams of happiness."

He was an authentic Angeleno.

Dennis Signorovitch
and Janet Hindler
Los Angeles

U.S. 'history and tradition'

Re "Would it be constitutional to ban abortion?" Opinion, April 20

I appreciated Aaron Tang's op-ed article on whether a federal ban on abortion would be constitutional, and I was especially thankful he put a woman's right to choose in the context of liberty and not just a right to abortion.

Tang points out that in last year's Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization ruling, the conservative majority "asserted that the 'most important historical fact' that negated a 14th Amendment right to abortion is that many states banned abortion throughout pregnancy when that amendment was ratified in 1868."

Of course, another important historical fact relevant to the time of the adoption of the 14th Amendment was that women couldn't vote and were completely disenfranchised from the political process.

That points to the more deeply rooted "history and tradition" of humanity's patriarchy and misogyny and the tendency to lean toward authoritarianism.

John Eaglesham
Long Beach

⁘

There are far more drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration other than mifepristone that should be considered for removal from the market, as they can cause addiction, overdose and even death.

Mifepristone is not one of those drugs. Mifepristone does not cause addiction or overdose. It is not habit-forming. It does not contribute to the overdose crisis in this country.

The only crisis set off by mifepristone is how easily one federal judge and possibly the U.S. Supreme Court can hand down a misguided decision that ignores medical research and science. Overturning the drug's approval is just another step toward the demise of our democracy.

Sheryl Kinne
Van Nuys

⁘

I appreciate Tang's optimism that the federal right to an abortion is safe from the current conservative majority on the Supreme Court because a consistent and logical application of their reasoning from the prior rulings would put abortion rights based on the 5th Amendment "on firm footing."

However, the only thing consistent about this court is its willingness to be illogical to achieve partisan gains.

We have every reason to believe this court would defy its own prior reasoning if that achieves long-standing conservative goals such as a nationwide ban on abortion.

Greg Seyranian
Redondo Beach

Don't force him to take the lane

Re "Cars don't have to rule Culver City, or L.A. transit," Opinion, April 19

It's funny that people sitting in cars, delayed by the congestion that cars create, blame bikes and bike lanes for their troubles.

If my City Council votes to end the Move Culver City pilot project, which put protected bike and bus lanes along a 1.3-mile stretch of road, then you can count on me to take the whole lane when I ride my bicycle through town.

I encourage everyone else to do the same.

J. Marvin Campbell
Culver City

⁘

At least the op-ed article writer has the self-awareness to call herself smug.

There's both ageism and ableism in the notion that everyone can just hop on a bike or take transit. Due to physical health issues, my bike-riding days are over, and I cannot carry groceries on a bus. I walk everywhere I can, but when I can't I must drive.

She is correct that we don't all have her privilege to choose her mode of transportation, but that applies not just to bus riders but drivers as well.

Kathy Barreto
Culver City

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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Bring on the 'Margaret' film and more 'period talk'

Don't let the topic become a battleground in the culture wars. Menstruation isn't partisan.

By Jennifer Weiss-Wolf

The film "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," an adaptation of Judy Blume's iconic 1970 book about preteen firsts, debuts on the big screen this month, and in anticipation, social media has been abuzz with fans spanning generations. Many credit the book with bringing important topics like puberty and menstruation into the open.

And yet here we are 53 years later, watching lawmakers try to silence "period talk" and other facts of life — including in Blume's home state of Florida, where on Wednesday the state's Board of Education barred discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity at all grade levels and where first periods were recently the subject of a contentious legislative hearing.

Republican state Rep. Stan McClain acknowledged that a broadly restrictive sex education bill he sponsored would prohibit students younger than sixth grade from learning about or talking about menstruation at school. If the bill passes the state Senate as drafted and is signed into law, fourth- and fifth-graders who start their period — a common occurrence — would have to be rebuffed if they approached a trusted teacher or the school nurse for guidance.

Even without that restriction, children are quite likely to learn nothing about menstruation at school. Education about puberty and reproductive health is not federally required, and Florida is among the more than 30 states that do not require sexuality curricula to be medically accurate.

The new bill preventing discussion of periods wouldn't just censor health teachers. It would have broad and probably unintended effects across many facets of education, such as literature, history and civics. Even Anne Frank's "The Diary of a Young Girl" could be barred solely for its references to menstruation.

Blume herself initially weighed in with a simple tweet: "Sorry, Margaret." She later issued a full-throated rebuke of the politics, wishing Florida lawmakers "good luck" in their attempts to police girls in elementary school from discussing periods and puberty.

However, state legislatures are now moving beyond policing information — and are going after proposals that would ensure students have access to period products themselves. Republican lawmakers in Idaho recently killed a bill that would have provided free pads and tampons in public schools. One female state legislator who opposed the bill remarked that the topic of menstruation is itself "embarrassing." Another said, "I think it's a stretch to say that we have to provide these products in order for women to be educated." The bill was mocked for being "too liberal" and "woke."

These are harmful statements. Among young teens, lack of support around menstruation, including accurate information and accessible products, can lead to compromised mental and physical health, lost classroom time and productivity, and even disciplinary action.

The adverse impact of ignoring or marginalizing menstruation extends beyond school buildings. Those experiencing homelessness or extreme poverty describe infections from using tampons and pads for longer than recommended, or resorting to makeshift alternatives like wadded toilet paper or discarded newspapers.

Lawmakers began to take this issue seriously starting in 2016, when New York City became the nation's first jurisdiction to pass laws mandating free menstrual products in its public schools, shelters and jails. Since then, California has stepped up as a leader in passing menstrual access policies. It is among the now 21 states, as well as local school boards across the country, that mandate or freely provide pads and tampons in schools.

Notably, these initiatives have successfully skirted partisan rancor, with both Republican- and Democrat-led legislatures and statehouses embracing and advancing menstrual access bills.

Suddenly, though, the tide is shifting. Activists fighting to ensure menstruation does not pose a barrier to education and personal dignity may find themselves swept up in a culture war as their message is shouted down in the name of parental rights and "anti-wokeness."

After years of supporting policymakers as they shaped menstrual access laws, I have seen firsthand the positive impact these policies have across the nation — not only toward improving access to basic necessities, but also in service of eliminating period shame and stigma by simply normalizing what's normal.

Take it from Margaret. Periods are not partisan; we all bleed red. More books, more discussion, more visibility and more menstrual policy are the best way forward.

Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, executive director of the Birnbaum Women's Leadership Network at the New York University School of Law, is the author of "Periods Gone Public: Taking a Stand for Menstrual Equity."

Robin Abcarian Los Angeles Times

ATTORNEYS Vic Otten, left, and Kurt Franklin at Lunada Bay in Palos Verdes Estates.

Is the reign of the Lunada Bay surf thugs at an end?

ROBIN ABCARIAN

Thanks to a remarkable new ruling from a California appeals court, it looks like the days of the infamous Lunada Bay Boys surf clique may be coming to an end.

But first a little background:

For decades, this group of Palos Verdes Estates surfers — young and old — has terrorized outsiders in a largely successful quest to privatize a public beach that is considered by many to offer the most epic winter waves in California.

The tight-knit, multigenerational cabal has physically obstructed access to the steep trail leading down to the surf, thrown rocks, run surfers over in the water, cut leashes, stolen wallets and wetsuits, punctured tires, and waxed slurs onto car windows. Their obstruction is legendary; Lunada Bay is often described as the most "localized" surf break in the world. The city that surrounds it is 72% white, 8% Latino and 0.4% Black.

"We've protected this beach for years," one of the locals told my former colleague Tony Perry in 1995. "So we can have driftwood on the beach rather than Kentucky Fried Chicken boxes. If this place was ever opened up … the rocks would be marked with graffiti, and the beach wouldn't be safe at night."

There have been occasional organized forays by outsiders at Lunada Bay. In 2014, a Hawaiian-born surfer, Chris Taloa, invited surfers to join him for a peaceful paddle out on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He testified that he was kicked underwater and a local who paddled out in blackface and an Afro wig told him, "You don't pay enough taxes to be here." He held a similar event three years later, but he's still angry about being denied access to such an epic break.

Until recently, the Bay Boys seemed almost immune from repercussions, as local police and city officials gave little more than lip service to the sacred principle enshrined in the California Coastal Act: Our beaches and waves belong to everyone, not just the entitled white few.

In 2016, two fed-up attorneys with a passion for surfing joined forces to use the Coastal Act to take on the well-orchestrated antics of the surf thugs and the city that, in their view, tacitly encouraged the intimidation because it keeps outsiders away from the isolated community.

Attorneys Vic Otten and Kurt Franklin sued Palos Verdes Estates and the handful of locals they say have been responsible for the persecution. They represented two nonlocal surfers who had been exposed to hostility, threats and sexual harassment by the Bay Boys. I met with the attorneys a week ago, on the rim of Lunada Bay. The sun was out, the surf was flat, and as we stood chatting, a few people with dogs played on the beach below us. The attorneys showered me with legal documents.

One of their challenges, they said, was to prove that the Bay Boys were an organized group that had developed a systematic approach to keeping away outsiders, or "kooks."

Thanks to a stroke of luck, the evidence they needed was forthcoming.

In 2017, alleged Bay Boy Michael Rae Papayans, then 28, was sentenced to jail for attacking and seriously injuring a 50-year-old man in a Dodger Stadium parking lot. Police had confiscated his phone, which found its way to Otten and Franklin, which led to other phones. "We got the hard drives of their phones," Otten said. "They didn't realize that just because you delete something doesn't mean it's gone."

Around the time in 2016 that Otten and Franklin had filed their first Lunada Bay lawsuit in federal court, the city removed a decades-old rock fort, complete with a fire pit and shaded cabana that the Bay Boys had built (illegally) as their personal perch and clubhouse on the north side of the horseshoe-shaped bay.

But that, and some sporadic, increased police patrols, is about as much as the city seemed willing to do to counter the mayhem.

By 2020, after many twists and turns, the lawsuit ended up in state court, where a judge dismissed the city as a defendant, declaring that the Coastal Act was not applicable to the situation.

Meanwhile, the surfer defendants agreed to settle, either by paying (or having their insurance companies pay) thousands of dollars or agreeing to stay away from Lunada Bay for a year, or both.

One of those defendants, Brant Blakeman, agreed to pay $90,000 *and* stay away for a year. Blakeman's banishment ended March 31. I was curious about whether he planned to leave nonlocals alone from now on, but he did not return my phone call.

In February, California's 2nd District Court of Appeal overruled the lower court. It said that the harassment meted out by the Lunada Bay locals could constitute a violation of the Coastal Act, and that the city, which owns the landward portion of the beach, might be liable for failing to stop it. The plaintiffs, wrote appellate Justice Laurence Rubin as he reinstated the lawsuit against Palos Verdes Estates, "sufficiently alleged an actionable conspiracy in which the city has participated."

Otten and Franklin are elated. So are California Coastal Commission officials.

"You couldn't ask for a better ruling," Otten told me.

"It's monumental," added Franklin.

"What I find to be so important about this case is that it addresses behavior, not just physical development," Coastal Commission Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge said Thursday. In other words, throwing rocks or cutting a surfer off in the water, just like a gate across a trail, could be considered an illegal impediment to public beach and ocean access.

If the city, whose officials have in the past characterized the aggressive Lunada Bay localism as "urban legend," is found to have violated the Coastal Act, it could face huge penalties, up to $15,000 a day.

This would put a serious burden on the city of 13,200 people. Besides property taxes, Palos Verdes Estates generates little in the way of tax revenue, as there are few businesses within its borders. "That's the downside of not wanting anybody there," Franklin said.

Palos Verdes Estates Mayor Jim Roos said by email, "The city remains committed to protecting the public's access to our beautiful coastlines. We are hopeful for a resolution that recognizes that commitment."

It's fair to ask, exactly what commitment is he talking about?

Franklin and Otten told me they had offered to drop the lawsuit against the city years ago. The main thing they, and the Coastal Commission, wanted, they said, was for Palos Verdes Estates to put up signs indicating that Lunada Bay is public and open to all. They'd also like the city to install a park bench at the top of the cliff, maybe a stationary telescope for whale watching, a water bowl for dogs, and a safer approach down the cliff to the water, perhaps using railroad ties as steps.

The city refused.

Meanwhile, Taloa, who was cast as a local surfer in the movie "Blue Crush," told me he's looking forward to the day the lawsuit is put to rest. He can't wait to get back out to the break at Lunada Bay, and to invite once-excluded surfers to join him.

"As soon as it's done," he told me, "we are going to turn that place into Waikiki."

@robinkabcarian

How California could enlighten America

The state is shifting toward a bigger role in national politics. Good.

By Thad Kousser

The first maps that European explorers drew of California showed it as an island. It was fully detached, separated by a wide gulf from the rest of the continental landmass, standing apart from the rest of the New World. This is both one of the most famous cartographic mistakes in history and one of the most telling. Later, ever since California became a state, residents have viewed their land and their politics as a world apart.

This was never more true than during the Trump era. When national politics lurched right, the state moved to isolate itself to protect its progressive policies. The day after Donald Trump's election, California's legislative leaders wrote, "Today, we woke up feeling like strangers in a foreign land," but called their state "a refuge of justice and opportunity," vowing that "California will defend its people and our progress." California declared itself a sanctuary state to protect immigrants and enacted a ban on government-funded travel to states with anti-LGBTQ policies.

Three recent announcements signal a shift in the Island of California's approach. First, legislative leader Toni Atkins called to end California's travel ban, replacing it with an ad campaign promoting acceptance and inclusion in the 23 red-leaning states that had been off-limits. Before she moved to California and rose to historic heights — becoming the first person in more than a century to serve as both speaker of the state's Assembly and leader of its Senate — Atkins grew up in rural Virginia.

Reflecting on her roots, she said she has come to believe "that the way to change people's minds is to have impact and direct contact and to open hearts and minds. … Polarization is not working. We need to adjust our strategy."

Doubling down on this approach, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a political action committee, seeded with $10 million that he never needed to spend as he cruised to reelection in this blue bastion, that is designed to "take the fight to the red states." The idea is to make the case for California values and the progressive policies that put them into action, holding his state up as a counterpoint to the conservative locales that have pushed the nation rightward on abortion, guns and voting restrictions. In the first week after his announcement, Newsom visited Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and the MSNBC studios. It's a counteroffensive in the culture wars, with California leading the charge.

Third, Democratic leaders across the state are taking action since the bans on abortion put in place elsewhere after the Dobbs decision last summer. These officials have pushed a concrete set of policies to convey California's freedoms to those from other states. In Sacramento, legislators have introduced 17 bills this session that would "further the protections to people who may end up coming to our state" for abortions. After a federal judge in Texas issued a ruling aimed at restricting abortion medication, the state moved to create a stockpile of 2 million pills, and L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath affirmed that "anyone who comes to Los Angeles County will be safe, you will be protected."

Similarly, in response to red-state attacks on trans people, Californians are seeking to ensure that our state's doctors can provide gender-affirming care to patients from across the nation.

Rather than walling off the state as a sanctuary against Trump-era policies, California's leaders are actively positioning it as a haven that red-state residents can visit to seek gender-affirming care or reproductive care.

Is this a fight to change policies, or a battle to win the narrative? It's both. Atkins' idea is that to change laws in rural areas, you must first change hearts and minds. The direct contact she prescribes could come through state employees traveling to other states again, or from those who travel to California to seek out its social freedoms. The hope is that each type of interaction will set off a chain reaction that shifts opinions, and eventually policies, across America.

Will it work? There are reasons to believe in and to doubt this project. California absolutely possesses the policymaking expertise to craft laws and regulations that become models for other states to follow. It's long been a leader in areas such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting internet privacy, regulating autonomous cars, controlling gun and ammunition sales and safeguarding voting rights. More and more, our lawmakers strive to pass first-in-the-nation laws like those providing universal school meals and allowing college athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness, then actively advocate for other states to follow along with them. In an era of ever-more-nationalized politics, shining a light on the policies that California is exporting is a necessary step in changing the national conversation.

The next step is recognizing how the rest of America sees us at this moment. Here, humility is in order. Our state's reputation is at a low point, at least among red voters who see only crime and homelessness here on cable news and social media. Just as we saw in the mid-1990s and during the Great Recession, we are losing population to other states.

So before they tell other states that they should pass all of our policies, California's leaders need to make a clear case for their benefits. California's economy grew rapidly, outpacing many of our red-state rivals, at the same time that we passed many progressive policies over the last two decades. The economy rebounded strongly from the pandemic at the same time that we saw much lower disease and death rates than places such as Florida and Texas. And from Silicon Valley to L.A. to San Diego, California businesses continue to attract the lion's share of venture capital to build toward the future.

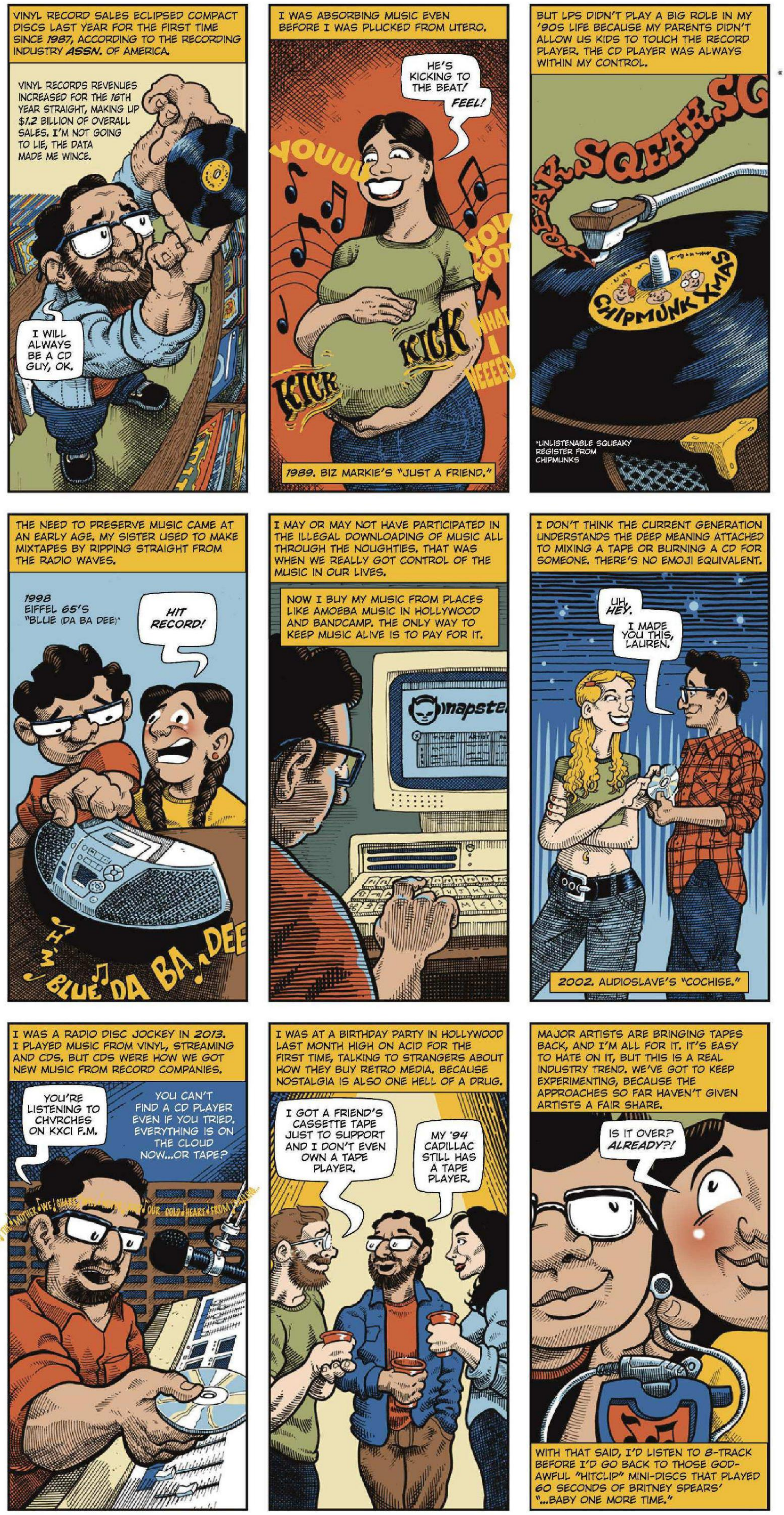
It's certainly true that President Biden's agenda is limited by Republicans in Washington, but Sacramento has the Democratic supermajorities to get things done. That's a serious responsibility and a valuable opportunity — now that California is no longer positioning itself as an ideological island.

Thad Kousser is a professor of political science and the co-director of the Yankelovich Center for Social Science Research at UC San Diego.

Vinyl is back. And also ... cassette tapes?

CDs were always endangered — competing with tapes and then supplanted by streaming. But records' rebound shows we shouldn't count out any of those old formats.

By Henry Barajas and J. Gonzo


VINYL RECORD SALES ECLIPSED COMPACT DISCS LAST YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1987, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDING INDUSTRY ASSN. OF AMERICA.
VINYL RECORDS REVENUES INCREASED FOR THE 16TH YEAR STRAIGHT, MAKING UP $1.2 BILLION OF OVERALL SALES. I'M NOT GOING TO LIE, THE DATA MADE ME WINCE.
I WILL ALWAYS BE A CD GUY, OK.
I WAS ABSORBING MUSIC EVEN BEFORE I WAS PLUCKED FROM UTERO.
HE'S KICKING TO THE BEAT! FEEL!
YOUUU
YOU GOT WHAT I NEEEED
KICK
KICK
1989. BIZ MARKIE'S "JUST A FRIEND."
BUT LPS DIDN'T PLAY A BIG ROLE IN MY '90S LIFE BECAUSE MY PARENTS DIDN'T ALLOW US KIDS TO TOUCH THE RECORD PLAYER. THE CD PLAYER WAS ALWAYS WITHIN MY CONTROL.
SQEAK SQEAK SQ
*
CHIPMUNK XMAS
*UNLISTENABLE SQUEAKY REGISTER FROM CHIPMUNKS
THE NEED TO PRESERVE MUSIC CAME AT AN EARLY AGE. MY SISTER USED TO MAKE MIXTAPES BY RIPPING STRAIGHT FROM THE RADIO WAVES.
1998 EIFFEL 65'S "BLUE (DA BA DEE)"
HIT RECORD!
I'M BLUE DA BA DEE
I MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING OF MUSIC ALL THROUGH THE NOUGHTIES. THAT WAS WHEN WE REALLY GOT CONTROL OF THE MUSIC IN OUR LIVES.
NOW I BUY MY MUSIC FROM PLACES LIKE AMOEBA MUSIC IN HOLLYWOOD AND BANDCAMP. THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP MUSIC ALIVE IS TO PAY FOR IT.
napste
TITLE ARTIST
I DON'T THINK THE CURRENT GENERATION UNDERSTANDS THE DEEP MEANING ATTACHED TO MIXING A TAPE OR BURNING A CD FOR SOMEONE. THERE'S NO EMOJI EQUIVALENT.
UH, HEY.
I MADE YOU THIS, LAUREN.
2002. AUDIOSLAVE'S "COCHISE."
I WAS A RADIO DISC JOCKEY IN 2013. I PLAYED MUSIC FROM VINYL, STREAMING AND CDS. BUT CDS WERE HOW WE GOT NEW MUSIC FROM RECORD COMPANIES.
YOU'RE LISTENING TO CHVRCHES ON KXCI F.M.
YOU CAN'T FIND A CD PLAYER EVEN IF YOU TRIED. EVERYTHING IS ON THE CLOUD NOW...OR TAPE?
AND THE MOTHER WE SHARE [illegible] OUR COLD HEART FROM CALLING...
I WAS AT A BIRTHDAY PARTY IN HOLLYWOOD LAST MONTH HIGH ON ACID FOR THE FIRST TIME, TALKING TO STRANGERS ABOUT HOW THEY BUY RETRO MEDIA. BECAUSE NOSTALGIA IS ALSO ONE HELL OF A DRUG.
I GOT A FRIEND'S CASSETTE TAPE JUST TO SUPPORT AND I DON'T EVEN OWN A TAPE PLAYER.
MY '94 CADILLAC STILL HAS A TAPE PLAYER.
MAJOR ARTISTS ARE BRINGING TAPES BACK, AND I'M ALL FOR IT. IT'S EASY TO HATE ON IT, BUT THIS IS A REAL INDUSTRY TREND. WE'VE GOT TO KEEP EXPERIMENTING, BECAUSE THE APPROACHES SO FAR HAVEN'T GIVEN ARTISTS A FAIR SHARE.
IS IT OVER? ALREADY?!
WITH THAT SAID, I'D LISTEN TO 8-TRACK BEFORE I'D GO BACK TO THOSE GOD-AWFUL "HITCLIP" MINI-DISCS THAT PLAYED 60 SECONDS OF BRITNEY SPEARS' "...BABY ONE MORE TIME."

HENRY BARAJAS is an author in Los Angeles. J. GONZO is an artist in Phoenix.

18+

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Alabama governor fires educator over 'woke' book

A teachers guide that mentions racism and inclusion is removed from classes, aide says.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JULIE BENNETT Associated Press

GOV. KAY IVEY has forced out the leader of Alabama's Department of Early Childhood Education.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey has replaced her director of early childhood education over the use of a teacher training book, written by a nationally recognized education group, that the Republican governor denounced as teaching "woke concepts" because of language about inclusion and structural racism.

Barbara Cooper was forced out as head of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education after Ivey expressed concern over the distribution of the book to state-run prekindergartens.

Ivey spokesperson Gina Maiola identified the book as the National Assn. for the Education of Young Children "Developmentally Appropriate Practice" book, 4th edition. Maiola said she understands that the books have been removed from the state classrooms.

"Let me be crystal clear: Woke concepts that have zero to do with a proper education and that are divisive at the core have no place in Alabama classrooms at any age level, let alone with our youngest learners," Ivey said in a statement Friday.

Conservative politicians have made a rallying cry out of decrying what they call "woke" teachings, with schools sometimes emerging as a tinderbox over diversity training and parents' rights.

The governor's office said Ivey first asked Cooper to "send a memo to disavow this book and to immediately discontinue its use."

Ivey's office did not say how Cooper responded but said the governor made the decision to replace her and accepted her resignation. Cooper could not immediately be reached for comment.

The book is a guide for early childhood educators. It is not a curriculum taught to children.

The governor's office, in a news release, cited two examples from the book — one discussing white privilege and that "the United States is built on systemic and structural racism" and another that Ivey's office claimed teaches LGBTQ inclusion to 4-year-olds.

Those sections, according to a copy of the 881-page book obtained by the Associated Press, discuss combating bias and making sure that all children feel welcome.

"Early childhood programs also serve and welcome families that represent many compositions. Children from all families (e.g., single parent, grandparent-led, foster, LGBTQIA+) need to hear and see messages that promote equality, dignity, and worth," the book states.

The section on structural racism states that "systemic and structural racism … has permeated every institution and system through policies and practices that position people of color in oppressive, repressive, and menial positions. The early education system is not immune to these forces." It says preschool is one place where children "begin to see how they are represented in society" and that the classroom should be a place of "affirmation and healing."

The National Assn. for the Education of Young Children is an accrediting board that works to provide high-quality resources for young children.

In an emailed response to the Associated Press, the group did not address Ivey's statements but said the book is a research-based resource for educators.

"While not a curriculum, it is a responsive, educator-developed, educator-informed, and research-based resource that has been honed over multiple generations to support teachers in helping all children thrive and reach their full potential," the statement read.

Cooper is a member of the association's board. In a previous statement on the organization's website about the latest edition of the book, she said the guide teaches "applicable skills for teaching through developmentally appropriate practices that build brains during the critical first five years of life."

Alabama's First Class voluntary prekindergarten program operates more than 1,400 classrooms across the state.

The program has won high ratings from the National Institute for Early Education Research.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA

Proust, wine and friends

Disagreements, yes, but always respect at a book club with the late Richard J. Riordan.

PATT MORRISON

When it came to being a politician in the sense we knew one — a cautiously crafted, assembly-line product of focus groups and consultants — Dick Riordan was not that guy.

No political consultant would have thought that a plurality of voters would go for a pro-choice Republican whose favorite movies were "Harold and Maude" and "Witness for the Prosecution," a man who loved reading Evelyn Waugh and Marcel Proust — who loved reading, period — and who could play Broadway standards on the piano like a nightclub virtuoso.

Yet Riordan got elected and reelected mayor of Los Angeles, from the city's post-riot PTSD and earthquake and into the millennium year of 2001.

He was also, political differences or no, my friend, affable and sometimes persuadable, and we stayed friends for more than 20 years, until his death Wednesday at 92. Through all the head-butting over politics and policies, each of us knew the other wanted the best for the country and, especially, this city. He was one of that imperiled species, a noblesse oblige Republican.

You can't say he was guileless. No man who amasses millions can do that without being canny and far-sighted and possessing a strategic ruthless-

[See **Morrison,** B10]

ANITA CHABRIA Los Angeles Times

DESPITE ATTACKS ON transgender people across the nation, dancers at AsiaSF say the nightclub and San Francisco remain a sanctuary. "The real San Francisco is AsiaSF," state Sen. Scott Wiener said.

At celebration, a glimpse of the real San Francisco

Transgender nightclub's 25th anniversary shows what city is about

ANITA CHABRIA
REPORTING FROM SAN FRANCISCO

The first time Kenshi Westover walked into AsiaSF, an iconic transgender cabaret in this city's gritty South of Market neighborhood, it was as a closeted gay Mormon visiting from Utah.

That was 20 years ago, and Westover (who uses they/them pronouns) remembers being stunned by the performers strutting down an elevated runway behind the bar, heels impossibly high, dresses dangerously low cut, the mood ebullient.

"These are my spirit animals," Westover thought. "And I am going to be part of that world."

I met Westover on Sunday night

[See **Chabria,** B4]

LIZ HAFALIA San Francisco Chronicle

FOR YEARS, the hard-right outrage machine has depicted the city as a "hellhole" that epitomizes the dangers of Democratic leadership.

LAWYER'S ADS SET A HIGH BAR FOR HIMSELF

'Top-ranked habeus' attorney's firm failed to conduct work typically done.

By Harriet Ryan

Through his arrest, at age 19, for a murder in South L.A., through the trial where he received a sentence of 72 years to life, and through fruitless appeals, Abel Soto maintained his innocence.

In 2020, after he had been in prison for more than a dozen years, his family and friends set out to hire a lawyer who would prove once and for all that he was wrongfully convicted.

They went with Aaron Spolin — a decision Soto and his supporters would come to deeply regret. Rather than thoroughly investigate his case to turn up exonerating evidence, Spolin produced a thin court petition that contained unsubstantiated claims and was quickly rejected by a court.

"He told me, 'If they give us a hearing, then that is when we will introduce the evidence,' " Soto said in a phone call from the state prison in Soledad. "That didn't seem right to me. How are you expecting to get an evidentiary hearing without any evidence?"

Advertising himself as "California's top-ranked habeas attorney," Spolin charges more than $20,000 to pursue habeas corpus petitions, the complicated and consequential avenue in which prisoners who have exhausted their appeals make a last-ditch attempt to have a court overturn their convictions.

The Times found that Spolin's firm failed to conduct investigative work or research that experienced habeas lawyers said was required. Federal, state and local courts have repeatedly called out Spolin's petitions for lacking basic evidence.

In the petition he filed on Soto's behalf in 2021, for example, Spolin listed eight individuals who could attest to Soto's whereabouts on the day of the crime but did not interview them or submit sworn declarations from them.

In numerous other petitions reviewed by The Times, Spolin argued that clients should get a new trial because their previous lawyers hadn't called expert witnesses. But he didn't retain experts himself to present evidence to the court how their testimony might have resulted in a different verdict, common practice in habeas petitions.

"The Petition includes no exhibits or declarations from a video expert alleging what forensic video techniques would uncover in the video in question," Alameda County Superior Court

[See **Ads,** B2]

Embracing creative process — even failure

Writers discuss flops while giving literary and life lessons at L.A. Times Festival of Books

By Keri Blakinger

Gabrielle Zevin likes talking about failure.

Her first novel for adults, released almost 20 years ago, did "really badly," by her account.

"I had really never had a failure like that in my life," Zevin said.

At the time, she was living in New York City, and it seemed as though the whole world was bearing witness to her defeat.

"I thought I would go into a store and they would be like, 'Here is your bagel, here is your lox and sorry your novel failed so badly,' " she said. "I thought they could see it like an ash that coated me."

There was no trace of that ash lingering on Saturday, when fans of her latest book — the Los Angeles-centric mega-bestseller "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow" — packed into USC's Norris Theatre to hear her speak. The event was one of the most highly anticipated attractions at the 43rd Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, which took over the university's campus this weekend.

More than 500 writers, experts and storytellers have come together to celebrate all things literary with throngs of book-loving fans. Scores of book tents and food trucks added to the upbeat atmosphere.

The festival bills itself as the biggest literary event in the country. Last year's event, which was the first in-person festival after a two-year pandemic hiatus, attracted more than 155,000 people over two days.

Aside from Zevin's

[See **Festival,** B7]

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS Gabrielle Zevin
FESTIVAL OF BOOKS Samantha Melbourneweaver

DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

GABRIELLE ZEVIN, left, author of "Tomorrow," talks about what failure taught her with The Times' Samantha Melbourneweaver at the Festival of Books at USC.

'G-Man' bio, 'Torch' of youth take home awards

By Emily St. Martin

An enigmatic story of art and life in Communist Bucharest, a debut novel set in a red-light district in Pakistan, a searing young-adult story set in Soviet-era Czechoslovakia — as well as reexaminations of J. Edgar Hoover, the Jim Crow era and more — are among the winners of the 43rd Los Angeles Times Book Prizes, awarded Friday evening during a ceremony at USC's Bovard Auditorium.

Among the winners were widely known historians and journalists, including biography winner Beverly Gage, for "G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century," which drew on new source material for a fresh look at the notorious FBI director, and Dahlia Lithwick, whose "Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America," won the current interest prize.

In mystery/thriller, Alex Segura — best known as a writer of award-winning comics — won for his retro comic-artist crime novel, "Secret Identity."

"When I first started this book I thought, 'Oh, this'll be easy, I know comics,' " Segura said, before adding that this was the most intense journalistic endeavor of his life.

Other categories helped to boost writers less familiar (at least to American readers).

Mircea Cartarescu took home the fiction prize for "Solenoid," a Borgesian exploration of life and art in which various monstrous dimensions erupt within Communist Romania.

The history prize went to "By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners," the first book by Margaret A. Burnham, a law professor and the founder of Northeastern University's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project.

When accepting the award, Burnham dedicated the book to her mother and father: "I thank especially my parents, Dorothy Burnham, now 108 years old, and Lou Burnham, who in the 1940s had a vision of a global world, a world with peace, who also set their feet in the South and thought, perhaps, that they could change our landscape, that they could change the future for those who have been in enchained and still lived. … This book is for them, and for us, and for history."

[See **Winners,** B7]

LAPD officer is accused of raping a minor

Rookie resigns and is jailed after allegation that he sexually assaulted a child. **B3**

4-year-old dies; twin still alive

The boys were found unresponsive Friday in the pool of a Porter Ranch home. **B4**

Marine veteran preserves slab

The granite panel honoring Vietnam War dead turned up at a storage yard. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

‘Top-ranked’ lawyer’s petitions lacked evidence

[**Ads,** from B1]

Judge Morris Jacobson wrote last year in refusing to overturn the conviction of Spolin client Alex Ivey.

A federal magistrate judge in L.A. evaluating a petition for a convicted murderer named Davione Wiley noted, “Petitioner has not explained what opinions a gang expert might have added that would have benefited his defense.” She added, “This court is not the forum for Petitioner to develop the evidentiary record.”

Top habeas experts said courts require detailed evidence in filings before considering whether to hold an evidentiary hearing.

“You have to have the raw evidence for the judge to analyze. You can’t just say, ‘I asked my lawyer to hire a ballistics expert and he didn’t do it.’ That’s nonsense,” said Cliff Gardner, who has done habeas cases in California for 40 years and represented Scott Peterson in his successful attempt to overturn his death sentence.

Shown some of Spolin’s filings, Gardner said, “That’s a senseless, utterly inconceivable way of approaching a habeas petition.”

Presented by The Times with seven different cases in which courts noted flimsy evidence, Spolin asserted that judges in those cases and others were wrong from a constitutional standpoint. He said he did not submit the evidence other lawyers did on principle because “there shouldn’t be this incredibly high bar” for a judge to order an evidentiary hearing where witnesses could be subpoenaed and testimony given in open court.

He described himself as waging a lonely but righteous quest to change the law comparable to the fight for gay marriage.

“I believe that if we keep knocking on the door like this, we will have a judge who will be brave enough to change the law,” he said in an interview at his office.

Asked whether he had conveyed this unusual strategy to clients’ families, Spolin said, “Often.”

Ivey’s sister, Rosia, a psychologist who works with autistic children in L.A., denied he’d ever informed her of that view.

“That would have been a red flag for me,” said Rosia Ivey, who paid part of Spolin’s fees in installments and put part on her credit card. “We definitely would not have paid $28,000 for that.”

Angelia Spikes, who worked overtime as a mail carrier in Oakland to help pay for her brother Demond’s petition, also said Spolin never told her he was pursuing an unorthodox approach.

“I would never have given $20,000 for that. Hell no,” she said.

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

JESSICA JACOBS DIRSCHEL, a volunteer working on an exoneration case, was shocked by an “amateur” habeas petition filed by lawyer Aaron Spolin.

As in Soto’s case, the petition Spolin filed for Demond Spikes referenced the existence of an alibi witness, but did not include the man’s name, details of his account or a declaration. The petition was denied.

“I didn’t know they were supposed to do a declaration until I got with a jailhouse lawyer and he told me what they were supposed to do,” Spikes said. Of his sister’s financial sacrifice, he said, “My credibility in her eyes is damaged. We couldn’t afford that.”

Habeas petitions are long shots by their nature with failure rate estimated as high as 98%. “All presumptions favor the truth, accuracy, and fairness of the conviction and sentence,” oft-cited California case law states, putting a “heavy burden” on inmates to establish otherwise.

Still, Erwin Chermerinsky, dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law and co-author of a book on habeas, said the petitions are vitally important to a criminal justice system.

“I wouldn’t focus on how often it fails, I would focus on the times it succeeds. Otherwise, there would be times innocent people were put to death or died in prison,” he said.

At Spolin Law, drafting of habeas petitions sometimes fell to low-paid contract lawyers in other states, several said in interviews. Some said they were paid about $30 an hour and had no prior experience with appellate law. One contractor, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to protect job prospects, said the process was often chaotic with multiple people working on different portions of a single petition to meet a deadline.

Spolin said he and other firm lawyers analyzed every case and devised a strategy for each habeas petition, but that contractors have been used to find relevant case law and put it into the filing.

“That’s a job that many people can do,” he said, noting that their work is reviewed and edited by supervisors who are firm employees.

One is Daniel DeMaria, the firm’s head of legal research. Court records show New York authorities revoked DeMaria’s law license in 2017 for failing to disclose that he had been previously caught cheating on a take-home licensing examination in Canada.

Spolin said he was unaware of DeMaria’s record when he hired him, but kept him on because of the quality of his work on federal cases, saying, “He’s a great researcher.”

In Soto’s case, his family paid $21,500 for a habeas petition after a family friend, Requel Becker, spoke with a case manager. “She made me feel like they were going to try their best to get him exonerated.”

Becker was one of the people who had been with Soto on the day of the shooting, but she said the firm never asked her or the others to sign a declaration and she didn’t know that doing so was standard practice.

Soto and his family might have had to accept the quick denial of the petition had they not crossed paths with a volunteer working to exonerate the other man convicted in the 2003 shooting of a teenager.

The volunteer, Jessica Jacobs Dirschel, had pored through the police file and court record and concluded the other man, Jofama Coleman, was innocent. She reached out to the Soto family, learned he too maintained his innocence and eventually got a copy of the habeas petition Spolin had prepared.

“I was appalled,” recalled Dirschel, who described it as “amateur” and “shoddy.” In addition to the lack of witness declarations, she said, there was no indication that Spolin’s firm had obtained discovery from prosecutors, the trial transcripts from the Coleman case or the police evidence, known as the murder book. “No investigation, no research.”

Dirschel and Ellen J. Eggers, a retired state public defender who works on exoneration cases, coached Becker and Soto on how to demand their money back, including by pressing Spolin about the information he had actually used in preparing the habeas.

“I am requesting a 100% full and immediate refund of the money my family paid your firm after being lured into an agreement with you that was based on aggressive advertising and/or false claims,” Soto wrote in a letter to Spolin, according to a copy shared with The Times. “It is not right what you are doing to desperate inmates and I hope you chose to do right by me by issuing a check for the full amount paid to you promptly.”

Spolin’s firm eventually returned most of the Sotos’ money, according to Becker.

Spolin declined to discuss Soto’s case in detail, but denied that returning the money was an admission of wrongdoing. “We gave it back because we did not want to trouble with these people who clearly seemed troublesome,” he said.

Soto’s new legal team, led by Eggers, recently met with the L.A. County district attorney’s office to present new evidence.

“They were extremely interested in it,” said Eggers, who previously worked with the Northern California Innocence Project to exonerate three men. She said the exculpatory evidence includes a recorded interview with a key witness, just the sort of information a diligent habeas attorney would have turned up.

“It is especially egregious to think of an innocent guy getting screwed over,” Eggers said of what she sees as Spolin’s failures in Soto’s case. “But I hate the guilty guys getting screwed over too. … They also deserve fair representation and competent counsel.”

Lottery results

For Friday, April 21, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

3-21-29-46-63—**Mega 9**
Jackpot: $20 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	0	—
4 + Mega	0	—
4	30	$463
3 + Mega	98	$161
3	1,859	$10
2 + Mega	1,945	$8
1 + Mega	14,609	$3
Mega only	34,053	$2

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Saturday, April 22, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

12-22-41-42-43—**Mega 18**
Jackpot: $52 million

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

17-36-47-63-68—**Powerball 25**
Jackpot: $20 million

Fantasy Five: 2-13-15-19-36

Daily Four: 0-3-2-4

Daily Three (midday): 4-8-7

Daily Three (evening): 5-9-7

Daily Derby:
(10) Solid Gold
(1) Gold Rush
(4) Big Ben
Race time: 1:40.58

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Does not include “Your Price” items
Wicker Department
Decorative storage, boxes, trays, metal & cloth
Wooden Table Decor & Plaques
Decorative Table Clocks, Spheres & Globes
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California's great snowmelt has begun

The remarkably wet winter means there's a possibility of flooding throughout the year.

By Terry Castleman

As California's wet winter has given way to spring, the state's record snowpack has begun to melt.

Though the accumulated snowpack remains at high levels — measuring at 249% of normal as of Tuesday — satellite photos show that the white blankets enveloping mountains have begun to recede.

In Southern California, the change has been dramatic. Images from a European Space Agency satellite captured the snow melt.

The San Gabriel, San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains were blanketed in snow March 24, but by April 8, much of it had melted away.

Meanwhile, the southern Sierra continues to be a standout region, with snow levels at more than 300% of normal.

Satellite images from NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System show the snowy Sierra on March 16 and a month later. While the snowpack remains substantial in the more recent image, it has dissipated significantly at lower elevations.

The Mendocino Range also shows significant snow loss.

While the melting Southern California snowpacks have caused relatively little flooding, the snow in the Sierra may be a different story.

Flood danger could last through the year in the adjacent San Joaquin Valley, officials told The Times.

The valley has endured significant flooding this year, with heavy rainfall wreaking havoc in small towns and fueling the renaissance of Tulare Lake.

Typically, about a quarter of the annual snowmelt takes place in April, with the majority coming in May and June as the weather warms up.

But the remarkably wet winter means the possibility of flooding could linger through much of the year, the latest outlooks show.

The Tulare Lake basin and the San Joaquin River basin remain the areas of top concern, as record-deep snowpack in the southern Sierra is expected to send a cascade of water into the San Joaquin Valley as it melts.

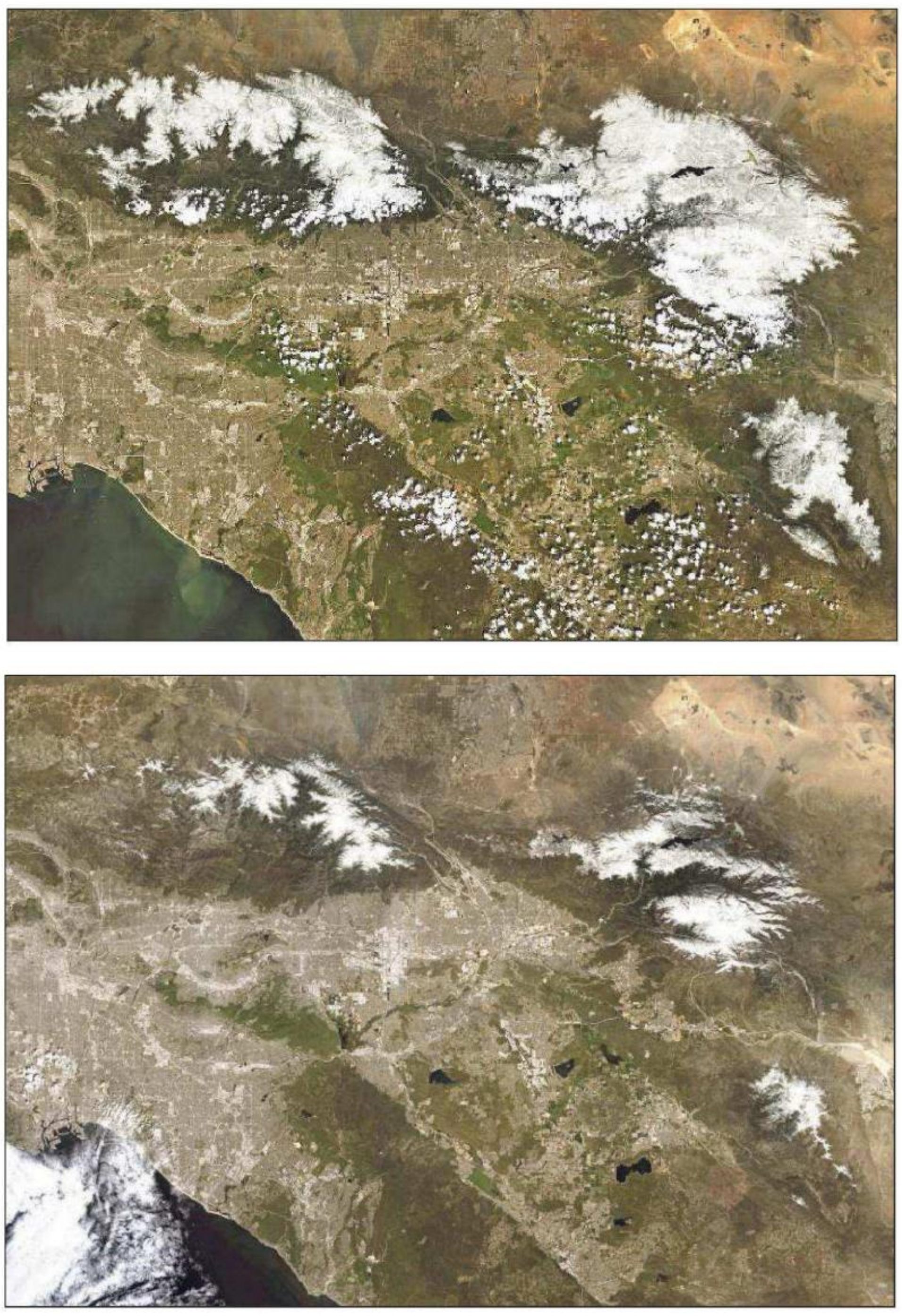
The threat comes after one of the state's coldest, wettest winters on record.

The Mammoth Mountain ski area in the Sierra received more than 700 inches of fresh powder this season, and there is now more water contained in California's snowpack than the capacity of Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir.

Though most of the focus is on the Central Valley, officials in L.A. are also keeping an eye out for spring and summer flooding, which could cause additional damage to the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

The aqueduct, which delivers water from the Owens Valley to millions of Angelenos, has already suffered damage from this winter's storms.

Times staff writer Hayley Smith contributed to this report.



European Space Agency Maxar Technologies

SNOW BLANKETED Southern California's San Gabriel, San Bernardino and San Jacinto ranges March 24, top; by April 8, much of it had melted away.

Rookie LAPD officer jailed

Cop resigned after being confronted with allegations of sexually assaulting a child.

By Richard Winton

A rookie Los Angeles police officer who resigned after being confronted with sexual assault allegations was arrested Thursday on suspicion of the rape of a child younger than 14.

Diego Jose Miranda Lopez, 23, recently graduated from the Police Academy and was serving as a probationary officer assigned to the North Hollywood area when investigators confronted him with sex-crime allegations. He resigned from the department, which can terminate probationary officers based on misconduct, the LAPD said in a statement.

The alleged sexual assault occurred before Lopez joined the department, authorities said in a statement announcing his arrest Thursday.

He is being held without bail at the LAPD's Valley Jail. The investigation is being handled by the LAPD's Juvenile Division.

The L.A. County district attorney's office is scheduled to review Lopez's case Monday for consideration of possible charges.

Marine veteran restores Vietnam War monument

A mysterious granite slab in Vista leads Barry Graham on years-long journey.

By John Wilkens

Charlie Neuman For the San Diego Union-Tribune

VIETNAM WAR VETERAN Barry Graham shows the names of 432 U.S. Marine and Navy personnel engraved into a restored granite monument April 13 in Vista, Calif. Graham, 76, considers himself a patriot.

Barry Graham was in an open-air storage yard on a September day in 2020 when something caught his eye.

Retired after a long career in environmental engineering, he kept heavy machinery at the yard in the San Diego County community of Ramona and had come from his home in Vista to take inventory. As he walked past a truck trailer, a colorful insignia attached to a stone beam drew his attention. Resting on the truck bed next to the beam was another stone, a big, gray slab. Graham climbed up for a better look.

The slab was a polished granite panel with hundreds of names engraved in rows. The names had military ranks in front of them, and day-month-year dates behind them.

Graham recognized the ranks as belonging to U.S. Marines. He used to be a Marine.

He recognized the dates as being from the Vietnam War. That's when he served.

"It hit me in the stomach," he said.

This is a monument, he figured, some kind of memorial to the dead. But how did it wind up here, covered in dirt, strapped to the bed of truck-trailer? And why were some of the names missing, apparently scraped off with a grinder?

It would take Graham the better part of three years to find answers, hundreds and hundreds of hours researching military records, visiting cemeteries, phoning people from coast to coast for information.

A lot of dead ends, he said. A lot of rabbit holes gone down.

Graham, 76, considers himself a patriot. He inherited that from his dad, a 30-year Navy vet who might have died after the carrier Wasp was torpedoed during World War II if he hadn't been rescued by the crew of another ship.

When he came home from the war, he and his wife had a son, Barry, and gave him as a middle name the name of the rescue ship — Duncan. "I wear it proudly," Graham said.

So as he stood there in that Ramona storage yard on that September day in 2020, as he tried to make sense of the granite slab with all those names engraved on it, one thought took hold.

"This ain't right."

A long journey

Ten years ago, Steve Colwell had a dream.

He wanted to honor the Marines who had fought with him in Vietnam and never came home. Camp Pendleton, he thought, would be the perfect spot. It had a memorial garden with other monuments.

Colwell, a Carlsbad real estate developer, worked with the 5th Regiment Support Group, based in Dana Point, and other organizations to raise more than $350,000 for the project in about five years.

Carved out of granite mined at Rock of Ages quarry in Vermont, the memorial would feature six panels engraved with the names of 2,706 slain Marines and sailors. They were all attached to three Pendleton-based battalions from the 5th Marines and one from the 4th Marines.

The panels and a tall spire would be installed at Camp San Mateo, at the northern end of the base, where other memorials to Marines are located.

Work on the stones began in the summer of 2017, and by March of the following year, they were ready. The six panels — each about 6 feet high and 5 feet wide and weighing more than 5,000 pounds — were loaded onto the beds of three trucks in Vermont.

Motorcyclists from various chapters of the Patriot Guard Riders, a volunteer group, escorted the trucks on the eight-day, 3,000-mile trip to Oceanside.

The trucks arrived at Camp Pendleton on March 29, 2018 — significant because that is the annual National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Hundreds of people lined San Mateo Drive and stood at attention as the markers rolled by. Colwell was among them.

"It's been a long journey," he said that day. "And no matter how much work it's been, I have to remind myself that it's an honor to be able to do this."

The plan was to have the monument in place for a ceremony on Memorial Day. But there was a problem.

One of the panels was the wrong size, too narrow for its frame.

A familiar name

After the discovery in the Ramona storage yard, Graham went home to Vista and started making phone calls.

He knew from the colorful insignia that the granite marker had something to do with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, the "Magnificent Bastards," based at Camp Pendleton. He called there.

"I think I have something that belongs to you," he said.

There was no immediate response. He went back to the storage yard to take pictures of the panel.

Reading down the rows of names, he noticed they were arranged chronologically by date of death. He read one that jolted him, a lance corporal killed March 26, 1968.

The name was his. Barry Graham. Different middle initial, but still.

"This guy's ghost got in me," he said, and made him even more determined to get to the bottom of the discarded and defaced monument.

Eventually a few Marines from Pendleton looked at it. They helped Graham understand that the names were from two battalions, the 2/4 and the 3/5. But they also made it clear that the base wasn't interested in finding a home for it.

Graham was disappointed. "I couldn't just leave it there," he said.

He learned that the truck-trailer with the monument on it was owned by a man who ran a recycling business. The man had bought the trailer a couple years back from someone in Oceanside. When he went to pick it up, the panel was strapped to the bed. To get the trailer he had to take the cargo, too.

He brought the trailer to the storage yard, and there it sat. When Graham asked him about the marker, the man said, "I've been wondering what to do with it."

Graham had some ideas. But first he wanted to get it fixed. Names had been ground off in three large places. He wanted them put back on. Who does that kind of work?

He talked to a half-dozen gravestone conservators, all of them back East, where the cemeteries are older and the markers more in need of repair. One suggested he call a local cemetery, see if someone there knew somebody.

Someone did. Graham had been searching all over America, and it turned out there is a company, Honor Life, two minutes from his home in Vista.

Coming home

In December 2020, three months after Graham first eyed the granite panel, it was trucked from Ramona to the Honor Life factory in Vista.

The company agreed to fix the stone, free of charge.

All of Graham's other phone calls started paying off, too. He learned about Steve Colwell and the memorial at Camp Pendleton, and the one panel that was the wrong size.

Tom Burrington, a vice president at the Rock of Ages quarry, told the Union-Tribune in an email that the defective panel was replaced in time for the dedication ceremony at Camp Pendleton on Memorial Day in 2018, and the original was supposed to be destroyed.

But a crane operator helping to install the memorial — a Marine combat veteran — asked if he could keep the panel, remove the names and "repurpose" the stone, Burrington said. Rock of Ages agreed, and the crane operator carted it away at his own expense.

Then it wound up on the bed of a truck trailer, the repurposing apparently abandoned after some of the names were ground off. And then the trailer was sold, and the person who bought it took it to a storage yard in Ramona, where it was spotted by a certain someone who couldn't let it be.

Graham's mission is to find a new home for the panel.

He's talked to officials in Dana Point, which has ties to the Marines through the 5th Regiment Support Group. He's researched the histories of Marines whose names are on the panel, talked to their relatives. He's visited the graves of those buried in San Diego cemeteries, looking for connections that might point to a suitable site.

"I want it to go some place where people can see it," he said. "Where it will be protected and respected."

A month ago, on March 29 — National Vietnam War Veterans Day again — he held a ceremony in the Honor Life parking lot, attended by about a dozen people. Repair work on the panel was finished, the missing names reengraved.

Col. Christopher Steele, commanding officer of the 5th Marine Regiment, talked about the legacy of the corps, about the traditions and practices that are "baked into our very souls."

"We don't leave fallen Marines behind," he said.

Standing in the background, Barry Graham nodded.

Wilkens writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

CATCH OF THE DAY

Volunteer scuba diver Ben Groh of Long Beach pulls a bicycle from Colorado Lagoon on Saturday, which was Earth Day. Groh said he also pulled out trash, a sign, sunglasses and prescription eyeglasses.

Man accused of sexually abusing O.C. children

Officials seek victims, fear he spent decades getting babysitters to deliver young kids.

By Corinne Purtill

Orange County authorities are seeking the public's help in identifying potential victims of a Huntington Beach man accused of sexually abusing children for decades and "grooming" women to seek out babysitting jobs and bring children in their care to motel rooms where he could molest them.

Officials suspect the assaults took place over the course of decades and involved victims as young as 4 years old, according to the Orange County district attorney's office.

Undercover detectives arrested Jason Valentine Esparza, 57, in Huntington Beach after an investigation was sparked in September by an anonymous online tip through the national Internet Crimes Against Children program.

Authorities say Huntington Beach police detectives made contact with Esparza while posing as a woman who was babysitting a 4-year-old girl. In their communications, the suspect allegedly described sexual acts he wished to perform on the supposed child, according to the district attorney's office.

Esparza was arrested April 7 at a Huntington Beach hotel, where authorities allege he went expecting to meet the child.

He has been charged with three felony counts of attempted oral copulation or sexual penetration of a child aged 10 or younger and two felony counts of attempted forcible lewd acts on a child under 14.

If convicted as charged, he faces a sentence of up to 16 years and four months, the district attorney's office said.

Esparza remains in custody in lieu of $1 million bail.

Originally from Warren, Ohio, Esparza has connections to Huntington Beach, Long Beach and Fullerton, authorities say .

Anyone with information is asked to call the Huntington Beach police WeTip Hotline at (714) 375-5066.

Tips can also be made anonymously to OC Crime Stoppers at (855) 847-6227.

4-year-old dead, twin in critical condition

By Christian Martinez

A 4-year-old boy died, and his twin brother was in critical condition, after they were found unresponsive Friday morning in the backyard pool of a Porter Ranch home, authorities said.

The parents pulled the boys from the pool and performed dispatcher-assisted CPR, fire officials said.

Fire and emergency medical personnel responded to the home on Des Moines Avenue just after 10:30 a.m., according to the Los Angeles Fire Department.

The children were taken to a regional pediatric trauma center.

At a news conference, LAFD Capt. Eric Scott said paramedics "worked feverishly to provide every chance possible for these children," KTLA reported. "Tragically, one of those boys was pronounced dead at the hospital."

Authorities had no update on the other child's condition as of Saturday afternoon.

"There's nothing to indicate anything beyond a tragic accident here," LAPD Capt. Kelly Muniz said, according to KTLA.

The mayor's Crisis Response Team was sent to the home to provide support.

Times staff writer Corinne Purtill contributed to this report.

At club's anniversary, a glimpse of the real San Francisco

[**Chabria,** from B1]

as AsiaSF celebrated its 25-year anniversary, in a room packed sardine-tight with drag queens, politicos in suits and even a couple of Stanford students.

Westover, who identifies as gender nonconforming, was turned out in a beaded Art Deco gown, with dangling earrings and slicked-back hair, very much a part of this vibrant community that reveals more about San Francisco than the alarmist tales of urban doom that have come to define its reputation nationwide.

For years, the hard-right outrage machine has zeroed in on San Francisco as a "hellhole" that epitomizes everything wrong with Democratic leadership. They have been aided by a small but vocal cadre of local social media influencers who have made their brand pummeling San Francisco's public health and public safety policies. They focus almost entirely on drugs and crime, which dovetails perfectly into the right-wing propaganda that's stoking paranoia and panic in various parts of the country.

If you're wondering why I'm not including the usually obligatory sample posts from these influencers, it's because I don't feel the need to give that false narrative more oxygen.

But their new king seems to be Elon Musk, who recently tweeted out that "violent crime in SF is horrific," despite the reality that, with the exception of robberies, rates for violent crimes like homicide and rape are so far on par or declining from last year.

Many of these proselytizers protest that they are not conservative, and most wouldn't dare to touch other issues that animate the right, such as the wars on transgender people and abortion. But they have a symbiotic relationship with hard-right media (think Fox News) on crime and drugs.

In another California town, maybe Sacramento or even Los Angeles, their vitriol would be the stuff of Nextdoor posts. But because San Francisco is a target of the right wing, these local voices have amassed power by providing the so-called proof that this city, like other Democratic strongholds, is in perpetual chaos.

They post countless videos online of what I consider exploitative moral-outrage porn — clips of destitute people using drugs, splayed out on sidewalks, incoherent and lost. Few of these appear to be filmed with the person's consent, but all are meant to convey to the good folks in Iowa and Idaho just how bad life can be under "leftist" leadership.

Of course, that narrative is not new.

In 2015, then-presidential candidate Donald Trump called out San Francisco and its sanctuary city policies after the horrific killing of resident Kathryn Steinle, who was shot by an undocumented immigrant with an extensive criminal record and a history of deportations. The shooter, Jose Ines Garcia Zarate, was acquitted of murder after a jury decided he had found the gun under a bench and accidentally fired it. The weapon belonged to a Bureau of Land Management ranger and had been stolen from his vehicle a week earlier.

But with the success of Trump's political attack on the hearts and minds of immigrant-averse Republicans, the pile-on of exploiting woe has continued, culminating recently in the aftermath of the killing of tech entrepreneur Bob Lee.

Lee was stabbed in the early-morning hours of April 4 in an upscale area of downtown. By the next morning, right-wing social media were drowning in condemnations of the city that assumed Lee had been randomly attacked — the unspoken implication that the assailant was likely a homeless drug user. Lee's death quickly became just the latest proof of how violent San Francisco has become despite its continuing low homicide rate.

Police eventually arrested an acquaintance of Lee's for the killing, suggesting the attack may have been motivated by a dispute involving the suspect's sister. Not a random killing, but that hasn't stopped these vendors of grievance. After the arrest, one frequent social media poster suggested that it didn't matter who did it, because any killing proves just how dangerous San Francisco is.

On Friday, when Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a multiagency effort, including the California National Guard, to target large drug distributors in San Francisco, another one of those agitators declared "victory," wrongly claiming that soldiers would be on the streets because the situation was so dire. CalGuard will provide backroom intelligence-gathering aid. There will be no tanks.

San Francisco has problems, of course. Not little ones. There's a tech bust emptying expensive office towers, much like the dot-com bubble did around the same time AsiaSF first opened.

There is also a crisis of addiction, which has led to unacceptable levels of property crime as well as areas of the city where drugs are openly sold and used, and stolen goods hawked at sidewalk markets. As with so many other places — urban, suburban and rural — fentanyl has become the drug of choice, leading to skyrocketing numbers of overdoses. So far this year, 200 people have died of fentanyl overdoses in the city compared with 142 deaths in the same period last year.

And anti-Asian hate crimes, largely unrelated to the addiction crisis, have rightfully galvanized anger — having increased 167% nationwide between 2020 and 2021, according to FBI data, far outpacing rises for any other group. In San Francisco that has included, among other brazen attacks, an Asian man dying after being shoved into the street, a man throwing a brick at elderly Asian people in a park, and an elderly woman being robbed and beaten by four juveniles in her senior living center.

Anti-Asian hate crimes seem to be declining this year, but Asian communities have become more vocal and political in their demands to better police the city — appeals that at times have been conflated with the far-right talking points but which stem from very different perspectives.

A recent city survey found all residents, regardless of ethnicity, feel less safe than before the pandemic.

Only 36% of respondents said they felt safe or very safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night. In 2019, 53% said they felt safe at night.

Despite that decline, the overall grade for residents' feelings about safety came in at a C+, which isn't great but isn't a hellhole failure, either.

Which is to say, don't believe the hype you read about San Francisco on the internet.

"The real San Francisco is AsiaSF. It's the cherry blossom parade. It's Easter with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in Dolores Park," state Sen. Scott Wiener told me, when we stepped outside the club to talk. For those who don't know, the sisters are a collective of activist queer and transgender nuns who have been around since Jimmy Carter was in the Oval Office. They like to roller skate.

"This is a place with a soul that can't be stifled," said Bette McKenzie, a former public relations executive who helped conceive one of the largest AIDS fundraisers on the West Coast, as we screamed over the pounding beat back inside the club.

"In spite of all the BS you hear from the right-wing media, San Francisco is a beacon of hope for so many people," Larry Hashbarger told me. He's one of the owners of AsiaSF.

He came to San Francisco from Boulder, Colo., in 1977, a "young gay man who was not quite ready for the scene." At 71, he *is* the scene, working the room in a black bedazzled suit fashioned after a Keith Haring painting.

When AsiaSF opened, "the word transgender was not even in our vocabulary yet," Hashbarger told me.

But still, everyone wanted to come. "Pacific Heights matrons would bring their Dom Perignon."

Since then, he estimates, a million people have come through the doors. On Friday, Mayor London Breed stopped by, he said. Former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a San Francisco resident, sent a proclamation "in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community." Even state Treasurer Fiona Ma was there with her brother on Sunday.

"Everybody comes to be who they are and celebrate who they are. No matter who you are, you have to find your truth and live your truth," Hashbarger said.

And that is the enduring strength of San Francisco. People go to New York and Los Angeles seeking fame and wealth. People come to San Francisco seeking themselves — searching for freedom and authenticity.

Those who find their own identity and their own tribes are the true powers in this city, building communities with clout and endurance. Just look at who gets elected, from Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to hold office in California, to Wiener, who has championed a progressive agenda that has made him reviled by the right.

For a small minority, their truth is always going to be born of spite and privilege. And that minority will have its power, as democracy demands, especially in this perverse American timeline in which the push toward authoritarianism requires hate and fear to justify itself. That, said Wiener, is a "challenge," but one San Francisco always has and always will overcome.

For the majority of San Francisco, the outrage peddlers are a sideshow, a pale whisper against the force of the real show in places like AsiaSF.

Decades ago, Westover, the closeted Mormon, found themselves standing on a 20-foot ladder, contemplating suicide — jumping to see if that could quiet the noise and the pain. They were 23. Their parents had rejected them, and being gay or transgender or something else entirely seemed terrifying. Seeing the performers of AsiaSF gave Westover the courage to define themselves on their own terms.

On Sunday night, I saw Westover as a beautiful human wholly owning who they are, surrounded by found family.

"This city is a safe sandbox that allows a person to play without fear," Westover told me. "I think it saved my life."

They aren't the only one San Francisco has saved, and they won't be the last.

That's the beauty of this city, and no amount of fear-mongering will change it.

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General Announcements

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Monsenor Oscar Romero Charter School

YPI Charter Schools
10660 White Oak Ave Suite B101
Granada Hills, CA 91344

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS FOR VENDED MEALS

Notice: Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of Monsenor Oscar Romero Charter School, YPI Charter Schools (hereinafter referred to as (SCHOOL), is requesting proposals for vended meals for the food service program.

No offer of intent should be construed from this legal notice that the SCHOOL intends to enter into a contract with the interested company for vended meals unless, in the sole opinion of the SCHOOL, it is in the best interest of the SCHOOL to do so. The SCHOOL reserves the right to negotiate final contractual terms with the successful company.

Submittal: Written proposals must be sealed and filed with the SCHOOL at the address shown above no later than 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 12, 2023 and will be opened to the public at that time.

Withdrawal: Companies may not withdraw proposals for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for opening of proposals.

Rejection: Proposals will be studied and the Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any irregularity therein.

Questions: Interested companies should request a bid packet and direct questions to Susie Castrellon, Coordinator of Compliance at the address shown above, email scastrellon@ypics.org, or by phone at (818) 305-2796.

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YPI Charter Schools

By: Susie Castrellon,
Coordinator of Compliance

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Special Occasions

A Most Welcomed Child!

Born in Vienna, AT, to Nuriel & Audrey Molcho on 18/1/23, a healthy son, Ilay Maël. Grandson of Pantomime artist, author & teacher, Samy Molcho; & Haya Molcho, CEO of Europe's NENI Restaurants, Head Chef, & author; & Laurel Lee James, Opera Singer, a former prima donna of the Graz Opera, AT, & international civil servant at the United Nations. Nuriel & Audrey are proprietors of Nomade Moderne Millinery & Executives with NENI GmbH. His Great Grandmother Barbara Perry Babbitt (d.2019), long time Hollywood actress, writer, Tap dancer & widow of Disney animator Art Babbitt, would be thrilled. Ilay is loved!

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To obtain the RFI documents, please contact Carlos Santiago by email at Carlos.Santiago@fire.lacounty.gov.

The submission deadline is May 15, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. (PST) to: Carlos.Santiago@fire.lacounty.gov

CN995424
23MA07ADM Apr 23,24,25,26,27, 2023

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NO. 23CHCP00126

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
James Stephen Sharp
18638 Malden Street, Northridge CA 91324
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner James Stephen Sharp filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
James Stephen Sharp
Proposed Name
Steve Schaffner
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: May 25, 2023
TIME: 8:30 am
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ROOM:
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth CA 91311
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.
Dated: March 23,2023
C. Castellanos
Deputy
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Audiovisual Equipment Installer. 2yrs Experience in Audiovisual equipment installation or related. Salary $51,355. Mail resume to: Shpigel's dba LA-Decks, 10880 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1101, Los Angeles CA 90024.

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Mail resume to: Equity Partners Ltd, 3580 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1133, Los Angeles, CA 90010 (job site)

Rentals Wanted

Los Angeles Charming 2 Bedroom
Private Front Yard Patio w Seperate Entrance
Large Closets
Laundry room onsite
Stainless Steel Appliances (stove/refrigerator)
Tenant is responsible for a Renters Policy upon Move In
Owner Pays Water/Trash
Owner will reimburse for permit parking for first year
Two weeks Free Rent taken on Month 6 **310.710.9361

Rentals LA Metro Area

Los Angeles NOW LEASING Low-income housing opportunity at Lake Mews Apts. Waiting list open and accepting applications for two and four bedroom apts., income restricted, for 234 N. Lake Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026 **323-733-2603**

Los Angeles NOW LEASING Low-income housing opportunity at St. Andrews Terrace. Waiting list open and accepting applications for one and Two-bedroom apts., income restricted. 1525 S. St. Andrews, Los Angeles, CA 90019 **323-733-2603**

Los Angeles NOW LEASING Low-income housing opportunity at Imogene Apartments.Waiting list open and accepting applications for two bed apts., income restricted. Applications may be obtained at 716 Imogene Ave., Los Angeles CA 90026 **323-660-6102**

Los Angeles NOW LEASING Low income housing opportunity at Delta Apts. Waiting list open and accepting applications, income restricted. 825 Forest Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90033. **323-627-1519**

Rentals San Fernando/Antelope Valley

Furnished 1 bdr in Northridge, next to CSUN. Fresh paint, clean, private balcony, private entrance, off street parking. W&P included. $1991 **Roya @ (818)462-6442**

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PETS

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To advertise your pets, log on to placeanad.latimes.com/pets-for-sale
Los Angeles Times

Dogs

BERNEDOODLE Rose and Ziggy made some beautiful tri-colored F1 Bernedoodles. These pups were born Jan. 10 and will be ready to go home now.
Check out our websites for weekly pictures at Happyvalley-puppies.com
We are located in Utah. We can deliver to LA or Las Vegas
8016872308

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Los Angeles Times

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Los Angeles Times

Dogs

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER 2 males - 1 black / 1 white, S&P, 10 weeks old, 1st shots & d/w. **714-774-5270**

LABRADOR RETRIEVER Silveroselabs.com AKC Striking Champagne, Charcoal & Silver Pups Shots/Wormed/Microchipped/Guarantee Email: Infosilveroselabs@gmail.com **559 246-0676**

Pet Adoptions

Red F2B Multigenerational Goldendoodle Puppies 8 Weeks on May 14th Vet Checked Puppy Pack. Call 6024719288

Employment

Business Development Analyst sought by Wonderland Shower Inc. to analyze & forecast sales trends, and devise business development strategies, etc. Job site: Pomona, CA. Resume to 1980 W. Holt Ave, Pomona, CA 91768. Attn: Jack Li.

Business Operations Specialist (LA, CA) Analyze and improve business operation. Master's in Business Administration (MBA) required. $94078/yr. Resume to: JHK Heritage Inc. 3339 W Temple St, LA, CA 90026

Caregiver needed: Send resume to MLM Home, 6831 Arthur Ct., Chino, CA 91710. Job location is in Chino, CA, wage ranges from 27K to 32K

Caregiver—HS Dipl. or frgn. Equiv. reqd. Perform childcare and housekeeping duties. Occasional travel accompanying parents reqd. $30,000.00/yr. Mail CV to Sahil Sanjay Gandhi at 5001 S. Wilton Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90062

Japanese restaurant seeks a Chef (Japanese food) in Laguna Beach, CA. 2 yrs. of exp. as a Chef (Japanese food) or rltd req. Frm 41,870 per yr. Send resume to 345 Laguna Beach Dining Corporation (dba: San Shi Go): 858 S. Coast Hwy, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 Attn: HR

Chef - Umai Group LLC dba Menya Hanabi, seeks a Chef in Arcadia ,CA to direct & participate in the prep, seasoning, & cooking of food, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards & regulations. HS Dip, Culinary Cert w/ 1 yr of cooking exp. Email: jeff@menya-hanabi-usa.com

Administrative clerk. Compiles and maintains records of business transaction and office activities of adult residential facility, performing variety of following or similar clerical duties and utilizing knowledge of systems or procedures: 3 mons. exp. req. $32,843/ yr. Send resume to Noumea Care Home, Inc. 5978 Noumea St. Cypress, CA 90630. Attn: Consolacion Burgos.

Full Stack Developer sought by TulaCo in Santa Monica, CA. Master's or equiv plus 2 yrs exp. In rel field. Telecommuting permissible. Apply: Steve Lackenby, Co-Founder & COO, TulaCo, 227 Broadway #302, Santa Monica, CA 90401 or e-mail info@tula.co.

Lead Service Oriented Architecture Administrator for L.A. Care Health Plan in Los Angeles, CA to collaborate on Oracle SOA suite platform projects. Req.: Bachelor's deg. or foreign equiv. in Comp. Sci., Info. Tech., Comp., Engg. or related field & 6 yrs. of exp. administering Oracle Fusion Middleware/Integration Platform Administration. Salary range:$121,056 - $199,742/yr, position offered salary: $150,229.67. Submit resume to cvillalobos@lacare.org

Manager, Infrastructure Modernization: Lead the Cld the dsgn, dvlpmnt, & dlvry of infrstrctre sols. Reqs: Masters deg in Comp. Sci, Comp. Eng & 2 yrs. exp in job offrd or rltd postn. May subs. w/ Bachelor's deg. in Comp. Sci, Comp. Eng & 5 yrs. Exp. in job offrd or rltd engnrng postn. Skills/knwldge in cloud-based systms, Googl Cld., Kubernetes, Terraform, CI/CD, & GCP/AWP/Azure Infrstrctrs. Little travel – 24%. 40 hrs/wk. Salary: $224,000.00-$269,420.28/ yr. Job Site: North Hollywood, CA. Email Resume to: SADA Systems, Inc. at sadacareers@sada.com

COMPUTER
Network & Computer Systems Administrator Troubleshooting and Management needs. BS in Computer or a related field. Sal is competitive.CV to MKK Express Inc., 11138 Duran Dr., Jurupa Valley, CA 91752

Computer/IT: ByteDance Inc, Senior IT Auditor (Multi.Pos.), Culver City, CA. Participate in plan, develop & execute internal audits & IT control assessments in areas of Cyber-security, IT strategy & governance, IT ops, business continuity & disaster recovery, network & infra. security, cloud & 3rd party risk, programs & projects, automation & General IT Controls & app. controls. Salary Range: $95,680-$117,125 per year. To apply & info. on benefits offered visit: jobs.bytedance.com/en/ & type Job ID A22794 in search bar. Contact lpresumes@bytedance.com if you have difficulty applying.

General Manager/Construction Manager; K.B. Brown Construction; Arcadia, CA. Run day-to-day ops of business & guide general business strategy. Oversee large projects to ens accurate & timely completion of activities. Reqs. a valid driver's license & travel to project sites w/i 60 mi. radius of LA county. Salary $142,147. Send res to kbconstructionresumes@yahoo.com.

Cook (Indian) needed. Min. 2 yrs/exp. $61526/yr offered. Mail to L A Bangla Bazar, 4209 West 3rd St., LA, CA 90020.

Educational Counselor (Irvine): Provide academic counseling services to K-12 students. Req: Master's in Counseling or rltd. + 12 mos. exp. Mail CV: Leap Education, Job #EC01, 17322 Murphy Ave., Irvine, CA 92614.

Customer Service Representative (Job Site: Compton, CA), Elite Logistics Corp. Salary: $40k/yr. Resume to 927 S. Santa Fe Ave. Compton, CA 90221.

Network Medical Management Inc. has an opening for Data Business Intelligence Analyst II (Alhambra, CA worksite): analyze & interpret statistical data to imp. medical mgmt platform used by physicians. Req'd MA + prev. academic coursework to include creating & modifying SQL & performing analysis of data structures. This can be a 100% remote position & can be performed anywhere in the U.S. Salary: $70,574 - $100,000. Apply online @ https://www.networkmedicalmanagement.com/careers & search relevant job title & ID: NMM328.

You're connected.
Los Angeles Times

Employment

Data Integration Analyst sought by AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles, CA. Bachelor's or equiv + 3 yr rel exp. $103K/yr. Telecommuting permissible. Apply: Liliana Zoldi, HR, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 6255 W. Sunset Blvd., 21st Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90028 or email: talentacquisition@ahf.org

Accessory Designer; f/t; wholesale women's apparel/accessories. Mail resume to HUGE USA INC., 1100 S San Pedro St. #J-02, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Designer. Resp. for design of appropriate wrap for truck. Req. 2 yrs exp in job or 2 yrs exp as Graphic Designer or rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Chatsworth, CA. Send resume to: S. Apai, LA Stainless Kings, Inc, 8926 Comanche Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Designer. Review the objectives of client & prepares feasibility reports & design proposals. Req. Bach. in Architecture or rel. field or foreign equiv. Jobsite: Los Angeles, CA. Send resume to M. Sullivan, Pica + Sullivan Architects, Ltd., 145 W. Fairfax Ave., Ste. 403, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Senior Designer (Vernon, CA), Confer w/clients to discuss & determine layout design. Create designs, concepts & sample layouts based on knowledge of layout principles & esthetic design concepts. Determine size & arrangement of illustrative material & copy & select style of type. Develop graphics & layouts for product illustrations, company logos, & Web sites. Draw & print charts, graphs, illustrations, & other artwork, using comp. Must have a Bach's deg in Arts, Design, Graphic Design or reltd field + 24 mos as a Designer or Graphic Designer. Send resume to Seven Licensing Company, LLC, 5401 S. Soto St., Vernon, CA 90058

Senior Applications Developer needed by DIRECTV, LLC in EL Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to use programming language and technology, write code, complete programming and documentation, and perform testing and debugging of applications. Senior Applications Developer's earn between $134,750 - $202,070 yearly. Individual starting salary within this range may depend on geography, experience, expertise, and education/training. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by R221066 at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R221066.

Director, Organization Strategy Generalist, PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory Services LLC, Los Angeles, CA. Dvlp, dsign & implmnt org trnsfrmtion to imprv prfrmnce & gnrte lsting grwth for our clnts. Req Bach's deg or foreign equiv in Mechtrnic Engg, Comp Sci, Bus Admin, Comp Engg or rel + 7 yrs rel wrk exp, of which 5 yrs mst be post-bach's prog rel work exp; OR a Master's deg or foreign equiv in Mechtrnic Engg, Comp Sci, Bus Admin, Comp Engg or rel + 5 yrs rel work exp. 80% telecommtng permitted. Mst be able to commute to designated local office. Trvl up to 80% req. Salary: $261,000 - $261,000/yr. Apply by email at US_PwC_Career_Recruitment@pwc.com, referencing Job Code CA3685.

Director-Infrastructure Commercial Management- Turner & Townsend (Los Angeles, CA); Salary Range: $142,147-$155,000/year- Must have proof of legal authorization to work in U.S. Apply online at https://www.turnerandtownsend.com/ (under Posting Number 129430). To view full information about the job opportunities including the full job description, related occupation, education and experience requirements please refer to the internet posting at https://www.turnerandtownsend.com/ under Posting Number above.

Partner & Director, Venture Architect for The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. in Manhattan Beach, CA to Lead a cross-functional team of senior professionals to build and launch new ventures, products and services on behalf of clients. This ad covers multiple openings for the position described. Requires: Bach. degree in Bus., Psych., Econ., Strategy, Mkt, or related field & seven (7) years of experience performing corporate innovation strategy development, business planning, future visioning, or quantitative and economic modeling. Position requires 70% Dom/Int'l travel. Salary: $265,000 to $300,772 per year. Submit resume to DVentures@bcg.com. Reference Position Number: 10-2023

Civil Engineer utilizing Civil Treaty, AutoCAD. Mail to M&G Civil Engineering and Land Surveying, 347 S Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90211.

QA Engg. (Irvine, CA). Creation of test plans, test cases & test scripts necessary to validate solutions. BS (or foreign equiv) in Electronic Engg., Engg., CS or rel & 4 yrs exp in the offered position or position in Electronic Engg., Engg. or CS. Job reqs exp w/ Xcode for iOS system. Pay: $118,123 dollars/yr. Apply by email: Send cover letter & resume to MEDL at maite@medlmobile.com

Engineering Data Scientist (5) sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Dvlp rigorous approaches & state-of-the-art methodologies for large-scale online experimentation platform. Base salary: $205,000-$295,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #EDS-0423-JP. EOE.

Software Engineer sought by Accurate Background LLC in Irvine, CA. Dev and maintain .net service-oriented arch platforms from start to finish. Salary ranging from $102,600 to $120k/yr. Send resume to amirzayans@accurate.com

Employment

(Multiple Positions)
Riot Games, Inc. has the following job opportunities in Los Angeles, CA (Roles are based on Riot Games' campus, telecommuting from w/in commutable distance of campus is permitted 40% of week. Riot Games reserves the right to make future amendments to this arrangement, including adjusting to a fully remote model or eliminating the opportunity for telecommuting):
-Database Engineer (Req# 20-1626): Support & maintain data & database systems to meet biz delivery specifications & needs. Req's: BS(or equiv.)+ 5yrs. exp. Salary: $143,000-$208,000 per yr.
-QA Engineer II (Req# 19-1462): Creating clear risk assessments for team & working w/ team to mitigate risks. Req's: BS(or equiv.)+3yrs. exp. Salary: $98,000-$138,000 per yr.
-Insights Analyst II (Req# 21-14349): Conduct analyses on large datasets to better understand player engagement & audience behavior & provide recommendations for future direction of team. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+1 yr. exp. Salary: $123,000-$173,000 per yr.
-Software Engineer II-Esports (Req# 22-18685): Lead w/out authority & provide other engineers w/ clear illustration of extraordinary engineering. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Salary: $143,000-$201,000 per yr.
-Sr. Software Engineer (Req.# 21-11691): Dvlp high-quality software that follows Riot & industry best practices. Req's: BS(or equiv.)+5yrs. exp. Salary: $147,410-$201,000 per yr.
-Sr. Security Engineer (Req.# 21-10446): Build projects that contribute towards Product Security's long-term goals. Req's: 5 yrs. exp. Salary: $170,000-$238,000 per yr.
Submit resume w/ refs to:(include Req. # for position applying to) at: riotgames.job.applications@riotgames.com.

Lead Front-End Engineer for Commercial Real Estate Exchange, Inc. (Playa Vista, CA). Architect, design, & implement user-facing features end-to-end. Telecommuting is permitted 5 dys/wk w/ in commuting distance to worksite. Reqs Bach deg or foreign equiv & 2 yrs of exp as a front end dvlpr creating projects for multi industries. Must have exp w/ following: applying websites admin to bus problems; implementing complicated user interfaces for web apps; optimizing web site performance; completing responsive design & UI/UX designs; interacting w/ RESTful web services; building web dvlpmnt frameworks, plugins & user interface libraries; handling front end dvlpmnnt projects involving product mgmt; using the following tools & technologies: JavaScript, JavaScript frameworks jQuery & Bootstrap, HTML/CSS, Git, & SASS or LESS. $180,000 - $200,000/yr. Submit resumes to peopleops@crexi.com.

Mid Software Engineer (Culver City, CA) - Altruist Corp. Work closely with teams to analyze & solve complex problems spanning multiple user personas & workflows. Focus on building & scaling systems. Integrate data from multiple financial data & loading into transactional system. May work remotely from anywhere in the U.S. Salary range $113,000 to $150,000 / yr. Send resume to careers2@altruist.com must specify position.

Quality Assurance Engineer: 40 hrs/wk. MS in Engineering req'd. $80,000/yr. Mail or email resume: Royalty Insurance Services - 14545 Victory Blvd., #303, Van Nuys, CA 91411. royinsser@gmail.com

Software Engineering Manager (Los Angeles, CA) Sony Interactive Entertainment LLC: dvlp content supply chain & data pipeline infras. Reqs Master's in Entertainment Tehnlgy, CS, or rel. fld or equiv, & 3 yrs of bld'g, deploying, & mng'g systs in Amazon Web Srvcs. Prior exp must incl 3 yrs of exp dvlp'g SW using Java, React, Kafka, Spark, Hibernate, Spring, & MySQL; bld'g, deploying, & mng'g web apps, incl internal tooling web apps for internal bus. stakeholders; providing internal & external stakeholder tchncl proj communications to define syst req'mts & necessary modifications incl new features, performance enhancements & tchncl debt; bld'g & running complex SW syst's w/ internal tooling syst's, supporting srvcs, & highly scalable & avail. SW; wrk'g w/ UX dsgn teams to bld & dvlp engaging front-end features incl user interface for campaign mgmt, asset & bundle mgmt, & channel mgmt; & in executing duties, util'g tools & tchnlgy incl React JS, Java Spring Boot, Automated Quality Assurance, Jenkins, AWS, Angular JS, jQuery, Node.js, C#, Java, Kafka, MySQL, Hibernate, & MS SQL. Telecommuting &/or wrk'g from home may be permissible pursuant to co. policies. Salary range: $160,500.00 - $240,700.00/yr. Send resumes to SIE-Job-Postings@sony.com & indicate job code MA6591900. EOE.

Employment

Product Design Engineering Program Manager sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Remote Work Permitted. Snap's remote team members are expected to travel for mandatory in-person gatherings & to fulfill bus. needs, approx. 4-6 times/yr. Delivery of parts & BOM mgmt. from early dsg concepts to mass production. Base salary: $165,000-$230,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #PDEPM-0423-CS. EOE.

Thornton Tomasetti, Inc. seeks Project Eng'r-Structure in Los Angeles, CA to assist in coordination, direction, planning, organization, control, integration, & completion of eng'g projects w/in area of assigned responsibility. Req'mnts: Master's or foreign equiv in Structural Eng'g, Civil Eng'g, Environmental Eng'g or rel. & 2 yrs of exp in job offered or rel. occupation: coordinating project activities incl liaising w/stakeholders to estab project goals; performing finite element modeling & comp simulations using SAP2000, ETABS, & SAFE to estab loading demand to perform dsgn calculations, & detailing to dvlp construction docs; working w/ International & CA State Building Codes; anlyzg, dsgn'g, & detailing of seismic lateral systs; participating in building info modeling (BIM) process incl assisting & advising in creating & updating BIM models to generate construction docs; performing construction admin srvcs incl reviewing shop drawings; & responding to RFIs from contractors & subcontractors. Offered salary is between $90,000-$100,000/yr. 40 hrs/week. Qualified applicants pls submit resumes to HR, Thornton Tomasetti, Inc. 120 Broadway, NY, NY 10271 & indicate job code DR030823AD.

Senior Analog Design Engineer Dsgn, dev, model & implmnt the integrated circuits. Reqs: Master's in Electrical Eng or rltd fld & 2 yrs exp in offrd pstn or rltd pstn. May be subs w/a Bachelor's in Electrical Eng or rltd fld & 5 yrs exp in offrd pstn or rltd pstn. Skills/knwldg in analog transstr level design, switch capacitor circuit design, Opamp design, ADC design, Voltage/Current DAC's, PLL's & analog bias generation. 40hrs/wk. Job Site: Arcadia, CA Email Resume to: Luxima Technology LLC at hr@luxima.com.

Senior Business Intelligence Engineer sought by Cydcor, Inc. in Agoura Hills, CA to develop solutions using Amazon Redshift, Informatica, Einstein Analytics Studio, MySQL, developing & designing high quality ETL strategies/processes. BS + 5 yrs. exp. Salary $116,088-$140,000/yr. Telecommuting Permitted. Resumes to sfleet@cydcor.com. EOE.

ServiceTitan, Inc. seeks Senior Data Warehouse Engineer in Glendale, CA 2 hlp bld our Biz Insghts capblites, incl def & implmntng reqs 4 our compwde Entrprse Dta pltfrm. Telcom is avail 4 ths pos. Slry Offrd: $116,085 to $164k. Send Resume to: globalmobility@servicetitan.com, Subject: Ref# SDWE032023

Site Reliability Engineer: Job in Carson, CA (remote work permitted anywhere in US). Req. 5% travel to HQ in Carson, CA. Design, write & build tools to improve reliability, latency, availability & scalability. Req. demons. exper. w/: working in large scale, production environ.; C, C++, Python; control & validation of cloud infra. (AWS), Load Balancer; Linux; networking, op. sys., database sys. & container tech.; & microservice deployment & migration. Pay: $147,000/yr. Apply to Lakeshore Learning Materials, LLC at: https://smrtr.io/dLSQP

Software Engineers (Multiple Positions)
Riot Games, Inc. has career opportunities in Los Angeles, CA for Engineers, including: Software, Associate, Staff, Quality, Security, Systems, Software Developers. Positions include: junior, senior & management positions. Multiple positions/openings. Positions require BA/BS, MA/MS, MBA or PhD. Roles are based on Riot Games' campus, telecommuting from within a commutable distance of the campus is permitted 40% of the week. Riot Games reserves the right to make future amendments to this arrangement, including adjusting to a fully remote model or eliminating the opportunity for telecommuting. Salary: $170,000-$238,000 per yr. Submit resume w/ refs to Req.#SWE4RG at: riotgames.job.applications@riotgames.com.

Sr. DevOps Engineer, IS sought by Automobile Club of Southern California in Costa Mesa, CA for design and architecture of enterprise platform. BS + 6 yrs. exp. Salary $147,410 - $163,000/yr. Resumes to soler.sam@aaa-calif.com. EOE.

Employment

Senior Integration Engineer (Santa Monica, CA): Measure and ensure operational success of the Digital Platforms' applications and ancillary systems. Telecommuting from anywhere in the U.S. allowed. $143,978-$172,400/yr. Send resumes to: HR, Lions Gate Entertainment Corp, dba Lionsgate, 2700 Colorado Ave., Ste. 200, Santa Monica, CA, 90404.

(JC37) Solns Engr -BS/equiv & 5 yrs IT exp incl. Identity & Access Mngmnt, Oracl Singl Sign On, Idntity Governanc, WebLgic, Vulnerbility Mngmnt, Unix, Directry Srvces, Java, Oracl Access Mngr, Oracl Idntity Mngr, MySQL, Eclips, SQLDvlpr, Putty, &AS400. $137,738.00/yr. Travel/reloc req'd. Send résumé w/JC# to Saviynt, Inc. 1301 E El Segundo Blvd, Ste D, El Segundo, CA 90245

Vision enhance't & tech. manufacturer looking for SW Validation Engr. to develop, review, and/or approve V & V protocols & reports for off-the-shelf SW, configured SW, custom SW, & equip't with SW. Req: Master's in Biomedical Engr., or rel., plus 2 yrs. exp. in job offered, or as a Sys. Verification Engr., or rel. Exp. must include in SW dev't life cycle such as design documentation, process models, process decomposition diagrams & data flow diagrams; hands-on exp. in developing & executing test plans for white/black box testing, test cases & test reports; Hands-on exp. with regression, unit & integration; exp. in developing & improving quality documentation such as V & V templates; & ability to develop, implement, & improve quality procedures & standards. Salary: $90K - $110K/yr. Jobsite: Monrovia, CA. Work Auth. req'd if hired. Send resume to: STAAR Surgical Co., 1911 Walker Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016. Principals only.

VICE PRESIDENT, ENGINEERING sought by Manufacturers Bank in Los Angeles, CA. Req BS in CS, Info Systms, Engrg or rel + 5 yrs software engrg or rel exp designing solutions & developing bus apps. Telecommuting permitted from any location in US. Salary range for this position is $165,000 - $171,908/yr. To apply, send resume to: Juan Donis/ Jdonis@manubank.com

CEVA Freight LLC seeks a Senior Field Sales Executive to work in Torrance, CA to identify, target and win new business for company selling services in Freight Forwarding/Logistics. Will accept Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Supply Chain, Logistics Management/Logistics or related field of study plus four (4) years' Business to Business (B2B) experience selling services in freight forwarding/logistics, including at least (2) years' experience closing sales at executive level or sales account management, utilizing software applications, such as Transport Management Systems and Customer Relationship Management Systems (Salesforce). Experience in global Request for Quotes (RFQ) management. 20% domestic travel required. Apply at www.cevalogistics.com/careers. Must put 518732 on resume.

Fashion Designer: Prepare rough sketch & detailed drawings of women's apparel & accessories etc. Annual Salary: $53,082. BA degree in Fashion Design or its foreign equivalent degree rqr'd. Send resume to Elecoco, Inc.: 4553 Seville Ave , Vernon, CA 90058

Fashion Designer: Req'd: B.A. in Fashion Design, Fine Arts or rltd. $53,082/year. Send resume to MSK Apparel, Inc., 1721 E. 43rd St., L.A., CA 90058

Toranj Restaurant is seeking a Food Prep. Worker in L. A.; Req: 3yrs exp. as a Persain cuisine cook, food prep worker or assistant cook in a Persian restaurant; $36,005.00/yr; email resume to ndavaei@aol.com

Food Servers: Take orders and serving food & beverages; Accept payments. $18/hr. Cooks: Make sandwiches/salads, brew coffees or tea; Grill, cook, and fry foods. $18/hr.
Mail resume to: KSM Happy Food Inc, 15849 Imperial Hwy, La Mirada, CA 90638 (job site).

General Counsel at Dahua Technology USA Inc. in Irvine, CA. DUTIES: Provide expert legal advice to C-suite; handle compliance & reg issues, corp. gov., contracts, import/tariff, labor, IP, & litigation. REQUIREMENTS: Active bar license in any US State; JD/ LLM from top tier law school; 3 yr in-house exp. in multi-branch, int'l com; exp. in US export control laws, reg & gov't enforcement actions of Commerce, Treasury, & Defense Dept. Domestic and int'l travel as needed. For full description & reqs go to rb.gy/f5pqo. To apply, send cover letter, resume and ref. to recruiting.usa@dahuatech.com. EOE

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

DEFARO
○○☐☐○☐

TORPOU
☐☐○☐○○

SSQUHA
☐○○○☐☐

PNGUUL
○☐☐○○☐

SWERHD
○☐○○☐☐

QWUASK
○○☐○☐☐

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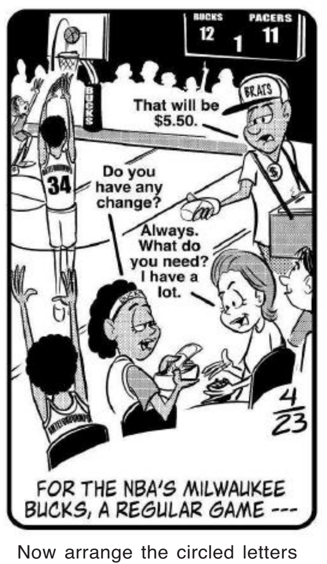
BUCKS
PACERS
12
1
11
That will be $5.50.
BRATS
Do you have any change?
34
Always. What do you need? I have a lot.
4/23
FOR THE NBA'S MILWAUKEE BUCKS, A REGULAR GAME ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

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Ex-Marine led secret life as drug trafficker

Soldier stationed at Miramar gets 12 years for the illegal conduct while on active duty.

By Alex Riggins

In the summer of 2020, a young man from San Diego who was running a cross-border drug-trafficking cell tried to commission a *narcocorrido* — a drug ballad — about his exploits. He wanted the song to contain lyrics about his abilities as a warrior — not as a cartel gunman, but as a U.S. Marine.

Two years later, while still on active duty, Roberto Salazar II was arrested on several drug-trafficking charges. He eventually pleaded guilty to two felony counts, and on Friday U.S. District Judge Janis Sammartino sentenced Salazar to 12 years in prison.

"Roberto Salazar served as a Marine, but he was also leading a secret life as a drug trafficker and a leader of a drug trafficking organization," U.S. Atty. Randy Grossman said Friday morning outside the downtown federal courthouse. "He was supposed to be protecting and defending our country, but instead he was bringing tremendous harm to Americans by importing fentanyl and other deadly, dangerous drugs into the United States."

Assistant U.S. Atty. Robert Miller told Sammartino that Salazar, 26, ran a prolific drug trafficking cell for many years, before and after he joined the Marine Corps in 2018. Salazar admitted in his plea agreement to recruiting two recently discharged Marines to smuggle drugs across the border.

His service, mostly at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar as a radio operator, "was just a costume," Miller said. "It was just a front."

Defense attorney Andrew Nietor said his client was immersed in the drug world by Roberto Salazar I, his father who was "both abusive and absent."

According to court documents and statements from the prosecutor and defense attorney, the elder Salazar was deported to Mexico when his son was about 9 or 10. The younger Salazar split time between the U.S. and Tijuana. He began smuggling — first humans, and then heroin — in 2013, around the time he was 16.

Nietor said his client left that world for several years but went back to it for financial reasons after gaining full custody of his young daughter while living on the wages of an enlisted Marine.

"Because of his history with that organization, he was expected to pick up where he left off — and he did," Nietor said. He told the San Diego Union-Tribune that his client "accepted personal responsibility for his actions, to an extent not often seen in these circumstances."

Miller argued that Salazar never stopped being involved in drug trafficking, except during boot camp, pointing to the *narcocorrido* being commissioned at a time he was supposedly no longer involved in the trade. One of the lyrics Salazar suggested to the Mexican musician, according to prosecutors: "I wanted to study and became a soldier, but I liked the fast life better."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection / AP

DRUGS HIDDEN inside a car engine, a tactic used by former Marine Roberto Salazar, prosecutors said.

According to his plea agreement, in 2015 Salazar recruited a classmate at Southwestern College in Chula Vista to help him smuggle drugs.

In April of the next year, that classmate drove a car loaded with more than 5 pounds of cocaine and more than 20 pounds of methamphetamine through the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

Salazar continued recruiting, managing and paying couriers for years, according to his plea agreement. He sometimes drove the cars himself from the U.S. to a specific auto shop in Tijuana, where others hid the drugs in the cars.

According to court documents in his and his co-defendants' cases, they used specific luxury sedans, usually BMWs. That was because of those cars' "unique engine compartment," according to the U.S. attorney's office.

In 2021, Salazar recruited two recently discharged Marines. The first smuggled drugs across the border on at least five occasions early that year. The second successfully moved drugs across the border on multiple occasions until he was caught in September 2021 at the San Ysidro Port of Entry with more than 14 pounds of fentanyl stashed in his car.

During a news conference after the sentencing Friday, prosecutors declined to explain exactly how Salazar landed on the radar of law enforcement. But documents in the case offer some clues.

Over a four-day period in January 2022, Salazar was personally involved in a botched heroin deal inside a Las Vegas grocery store, though it's unclear whether he was arrested immediately; one of his co-defendants was pulled over on Interstate 5 in Oceanside with more than 13 pounds of fentanyl in his car; the third codefendant was stopped at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry with more than 17 pounds of fentanyl in his car.

Salazar told the judge that he "messed up," saying his tough financial situation had led him back to his previous life as a drug trafficker.

"This is my first and last time I'm ever going to" be in trouble, he told Sammartino. While sentencing him, the judge told Salazar she was surprised he'd never been in legal trouble before because he was "very criminally sophisticated."

Grossman, the U.S. attorney, declined to say whether Salazar's trafficking cell was connected with any of Mexico's large cartels.

In December, a female active duty soldier in the U.S. Army and her wife were arrested at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry after more than 53 pounds of methamphetamine were discovered hidden in their car.

Both women have pleaded not guilty in U.S. District Court, but their cases are still pending.

The couple are out of custody on bail, and court documents indicate the soldier, who was based at Ft. Campbell in Kentucky, has since left the Army.

Last year, Angel Dominguez Ramirez Jr. was sentenced to 16 years in federal prison for leading a large drug-trafficking cell with ties to multiple cartels, but prosecutors said his involvement started after he left the Marine Corps.

Riggins writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Faith, trust and a wait for pixie dust

By Christian Martinez

Between the cost and the crowds, getting into the Disneyland Resort has become difficult for many.

But on Thursday, a computer system hiccup made getting into the parks (temporarily) impossible.

The parks' ticketing system experienced an outage of about 30 minutes Thursday that affected the turnstiles, Disneyland officials said. As a result, hundreds of guests congregated in the center promenade between the entrances to Disneyland and California Adventure as they awaited entry.

Rebecca Saryan, a resort employee who works at Disney California Adventure, was attending the park on her own time Thursday and was caught up in the glitch.

"A cast member walked down the line and was letting everyone know that the main system was down and we were going to be sitting tight for a while," Saryan told The Times.

Saryan said the resort's parking system experienced issues as well, with some people being allowed to park for free.

Despite the extended wait, Saryan said guests were mostly understanding.

"Everybody around me, for the most part, were actually pretty nice and considerate," she said.

JOBS MARKETPLACE

latimes.com/placead | To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

Employment

Graphic Designer: Assist in creating graphics for wholesale product illustrations. Req. Bachelor's in Design or rel. $41,579/yr. Mail resume: TRUST Y INC, 1957 E Vernon Ave, Vernon, CA 90058

Computer game studio seeks a Sr. Texture Artist to create & apply materials across a variety of subject matter. Reqs. 4 yrs. exp. in job offered, or as a Comp. Graphics Modeler, or 3D Sr. Envir't Artist, or rel. Must have working exp. with baking textures from high res meshes, strong skills in Substance & Zbrush, a solid understanding of procedural texturing techniques, ability to sculpt & paint highly detailed 3D & 2D images, proficiency at sculpting surface details & controlling shader features that represent a wide variety of material types. Salary $109,400 to $164,200 /yr. Job site: Santa Monica, CA. Work Auth. req'd if hired. Send resume to: Naughty Dog, 2425 Olympic Blvd, Ste. 3000 West, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Principals only.

Herald Christian Health Center seeks Behavioral Health Therapist. Mstrs in Marriage & Family Therapy or related field reqd. Must be CA licensed MFT. Conduct psychosocial assessments, provide counseling/therapy. Salary: $44,158/yr. Worksite: El Monte, CA. Mail resume to 3401 Aerojet Ave., El Monte, CA 91731.

HUMAN RESOURCE (HR) SPECIALIST. B.Sc. HR Mgt./foreign equiv. + 12 mo. exp. in HR Mgt. & employee relations. Recruit, screen, interview, place, oversee, evaluate employees for intn'l. consulting firm. Interpret, explain HR policies, procedures, standards. Process hiring-related paperwork, review, update employee manuals, onboard new employees. Maintain current knowledge of relevant laws & regulations: labor laws, equal employment opportunities, affirmative action, American with Disabilities Act, employee retention credits, CARES Act legislation, etc. Prepare, maintain, update employment & personnel records: hiring, termination, leaves, transfers, promotions, internships. Report employee relations issues: work complaints, employee concerns, harassment allegations, Create presentations for mgt. MS Office (Word/Excel) req'd. Domestic travel quarterly to FL & PR. Intn'l. travel for new market research (~7d/qtr or ~1 mo/yr). Mail Resume to: J. Morris, Morris and Company LLP, 3636 Birch St. #210, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Human Resources Specialist Miracle Miles Technology LLC in Torrance, CA seeks a Human Resources Specialist to understand the company's ongoing staff need; determine hiring positions and design job postings; keep up with relevant wages, hours, and other labor regulations; monitor worker's compensation, dispute resolution, inspection, and other policies; devise hiring and firing procedure, and new staff orientation material; coordinate with the accountant to execute payroll operation, and benefits administration; maintain the internal relationship by recommending and hosting in-office events, and to build active, faithful and encouraging corporate culture. must have a master's degree in human resources, management or a related management major and at least 72 months experience as HR Specialist or HR Supervisor. Yearly Salary: $91,291 to $100,000. Mail resume to 21250 Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 160 #J, Torrance, CA 90503, Attn: Chuanshan Cao.

Employment

Human Factors Specialist sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Build & own human factors discipline w/in Snap Lab. Base salary: $175,000-$250,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #HFS-0423-YX. EOE.

Import Coordinator (Cerritos, CA) Coordinate import for logistics firm. Bachelor's in international trade related. $55370/yr. Resume to: OTA America Inc. 16001 Manning Way, Cerritos, CA 90703

Cello Instructor: Instruct individuals of various ages to improve their skills in playing cello. Min. 2 yrs exp. in Cello Instructor, Cello Performer, or related. In alt., min. 2 yrs study in Cello Performance, Music Performance, Music, or related. $56,222/yr. Mail resume to Vienna String Institute at 600 Roosevelt, #200, Irvine, CA 92620; Attn: Mr. Cho

Jacquie Aiche Inc seeks a Gemstone and Diamond Setter to design and create high end fine jewelry from gemstones and diamonds. Responsibilities also include supervising and training other workers in setting techniques and supervision of final quality control. REQ: 7 years of exp working in the jewelry industry. 7 yrs of exp must include working w/ 24k gold and platinum, gemstones, and diamonds; hand fabricating jewelry pieces; working with a laser; setting gemstones and diamonds; working with low voltage plating equipment; working in the high-end fine jewelry sector. Offered annual salary: 100k-150k. Mail CV to ATTN: Office Manager, 357 S Fairfax Ave #502, Los Angeles CA 90036. Ref job code JAI-MBJ-082622

Watchmakers (multiple openings) sought by Richard Mille Retail, LLC (Beverly Hills, CA) Provide in-store watch maintenance, performing intakes, service, QC checks. Refurbish visual aspects of watches & support sales professionals in tech'l inquiries. Req: 2 yrs exp in same/related pos. Salary: $76k-$82k/yr. Resumes: dominick@richardmilleusa.com.

Legal Counsel-IP Litigation and Due Diligence (Los Angeles, CA) – Reqs J.D. or LLM from accr. univ. Reqs 3 yrs exp in job offd or rltd Associate Attorney (Jr. Assoc, Assoc, Sr. Assoc) or Attorney position. Active CA bar license. Reqs 3 yrs exp in intl & dmstc s/ware litigation & arbitration; IP assessment; s/ware licenses; arbitration; intl law; litigation; contract negotiation. Pay range $94,203-130,000. Mail CV & cover letter to Quandary Peak Research Inc attn: Hiring at 205 S. Broadway, Ste 300, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Must refer to Job ID TM01.

Lens Production Manager (5) sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Help guide Sponsored Lens campaigns from conception to completion. Manage project process. Base salary: $165,000-$230,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #LPM5-0423-VP. EOE.

Employment

Legal Secretary re current banking regulations & laws. Mail to eSmart Solutions Inc., 1250 S. Beverly Glen, #401, LA, CA 90024.

Logistics Coordinator. Req'd: Bachelor's in International Trade, Business Admin., or rel. Wage: $55,370/Yr. Mail Resume: MAX IGL, INC, 1250 W Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90220

Logistics Specialist (LA, CA) Analyze logistics/warehousing operation. Bachelor's in business/logistics related. $55370/yr. Resume to: Hidden Label Inc. 810 E Pico Blvd #B14, LA, CA 90021

Metropolis Technologies seeks Machine Learning Team Lead on Deployment in Santa Monica, CA to lead machine learning team on embedded system algorithm implementation, testing & optimization. Travel approx 5% of the time to unanticipated client sites for meetings & training & attend conferences in US & internationally. Salary: $190,000 - $195,000. Send resume w/ad: recruiting@metropolis.io. Must Ref. Job Code: AN

Director, IT&S Architecture and Development (Long Beach, CA – Tlcmmt'ng Prmssbl)(Mult pos). Dsgn, dvlp, & exec hlthcare apps & systs. Req's Mastr's degr or frgn eqvlnt in Comp Sci, Comp Sci Eng, Softw Eng, or rltd fld & 2yrs exp in job offrd or rltd mgmt postn cndctng dat archtctr rltng to IT dsgn & dvlpmt w/in hlthcare indstr. Trvl w/in CA to attnd clnt mtngs <5%. Sal.: $200k - $220K/per yr. Must've relvt work exp. Apply res/cvr let to Welbe Health LLC., Ref# SB2023, HR@welbehealth.com. No calls. EOE

CSS Payroll Co, L.P. (Los Angeles, CA) seeks General Manager to mnge lrge team acrss mult regns & functns. Optmze PnL of busnss. Create qrtrly & annual revnue forecasts. Reqs Bach in Finance or Mgmt (will accpt 3 or 4yr Bach) +2yrs exp in pos offrd or mrktplace moblty pos. 2yrs of reqd exp mustve incld mngng core busnss functns w/in food dlvry industry incl sales, oper'ns, launch, stratgy & accnt mgmt; partnrng w/ restaurnts on bhlf of their mrktplace moblty rqmts; anlyzng finc'l prfmnce at reg'l or country lvl; creatng stratgy & plannng tools to engage restaurnts & bld out food dlvry prgrms; mngng budgt of at least $10mn. Pos reqs up to 25% domstc travl. Salary $256,850/yr. E-mail res to: catarino.ruiz@cloudkitchens.com.

Water Equipment Distributor seeks a Management Consultant in Torrance, CA. HS Diploma/GED and 2 yrs. of exp. as Management Analyst or any managerial or executive positions req. Frm $60,653/yr. Send resume to Enagic USA, Inc. 4115 Spencer St, Torrance, CA 90503

Liminex, Inc., dba GoGuardian seeks Manager, Partnerships in El Segundo, CA: Create partnership strategy across product, engineering, marketing & advocacy aligned w/ company's long-term strategic vision. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Or BS(or equiv.)+5 yrs. exp. Salary: $122,500.00 - $140,875.00 per annum. Submit resume w/ ref. to Req.# 21-1666 at: ATTN: Kassidi Stynnett, jobs@goguardian.com.

QUALITY PSI Services LLC - Manager - Quality Assurance. Manage day-to-day activities of QA team members. HQ: Glendale, CA. Ability to telecommute w/in normal commute distance of Glendale, CA office. $121,742/yr. Apply at LLHTalent@psionline.com

Employment

Mid-Corporates Relationship Manager for Citibank, N.A. (Irvine, CA) Work w/ int'l treasury & cash mgmt solutions, redit finance products, investmet banking products, industry Credit Policies & Credit Parameters. REQS: Masters degree or frgn equiv in Bus Admin, Financ, Econ, or rld fld & 5 yrs of exp as Relatnshp Mgr, Prodct Mgr, Commercl Subsidrs Grp Head, Loan Structurg Desk Mgr, Credit & Portf Anlyst, or rld posn workg w/in glbl financl srvcs indstry. Altrntvly, employr will accept Bachelrs degre or frgn equiv in statd flds & 7 yrs of specifd progressv, post-baccalaureate exp. Full span of exp must incld: Int'l treasury & cash mgmt solutns; Workg w/ credit financ prdcts, invstmnt bankng prdcts, indstry Credit Policies & Credit Paramtrs; Workg w/ credit includg glbl transactns & Early Warng Detectn skills; Frgn Exchng solutns for currencs tradg & hedgng soluts to cover Interst Rate, FX & Commodts risks; Workg w/ Mexican & LATAM local policies & procdrs incldg cross-bordr bus ops, credit & bus practcs, & financng instrumnts; Apply knowldg of Debt Rating Models & Returns on Risk Capital Models; Relatnshp mgmt w/ institutnl clients, w/in consumr prdcts & retail industrs; & Salesforce, Relpro & LinkedIn Sales Navgtr. 25% int'l & domstc travel reqd. Salary range: $175,000.00 to $175,000.00/yr; 40 hrs/wk. Applicants submit CV at https://jobs.citi.com/ & search Job Req ID#23639465 or to Citigroup Recruiting Dept., 3800 Citigroup Center Drive, Tampa, FL 33610. EO Employer.

Managerial Professional
Store Manager: Oversee day-to-day operations, sales, sales analysis, inventory management & fiscal accountability of general merchandise & wholesale of electronic devices, glass products & other consumer goods & accessories for e-cigarettes. Supervise, manage, train 2 sales staff. Job location in Los Angeles, CA. Mail resume: Blackbird Distribution LLC dba Indigo Distribution, 340 E 3rd St, Los Angeles,CA 90013. Salary $56,000/yr

STRATEGIC SOURCING MANAGER 2 sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Irvine, CA: Develop the sourcing strategy for assigned global commodities. Salary range: $118,409 - $206,400/year. Resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: CA0423PM

Lemonlight Media, Inc. seeks Cinematographer/Editor of Photography. Create/edit cinematographic content. Salary $44,158/yr. Worksite: Inglewood, CA. Mail resume to: 226 South Glasgow Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301.

Two Front Office Clerks Hecht Eye Institute Inc. Lawndale. Answer phones, greet and check in patients, verify insurance, collect fees, make appts. Resume: ninashad4223@gmail.com

H Payroll LLC seeks Head of Household in Los Angeles, CA to provide care for children in a private home. REQS: 2 yrs exp as a Nanny, Early Childhood Teacher, or Preschool Teacher. Knowledge of kosher food prep. Apply: send resume to customlittlelibrary@gmail.com w/ 51706 in title of email.

Nanny needed for Amanda Childers (Topanga, CA). Care for children in pvt. home. HS diploma or equiv. req. 24 mths exp. as nanny or childcare worker req. Email to: amandaechilders@gmail.com

Employment

Nanny needed for Julian Landau-Sabella (Los Angeles, CA). Care for children in pvt. home. HS diploma or equiv. req. 24 mths exp. as nanny or childcare worker req. Email to: landausabella@gmail.com

Office Clerks: Operate office machines, answer telephones, maintain and update filing, and communicate with customers to answer questions. $18/hr.
Account Clerks: Record financial accounts; Report discrepancies in records; Perform calculations & create documents. $18/hr.
Mail resume to: Hermes Capital Inc, 9541 Irvine Center Dr, Irvine, CA 92618 (job site)

Office Coordinator: Provide customer (parents/students) support by handling feedback, complaints, requests, & resolving difficult problems. App must have HS diploma/GED + min of 2 yrs of exp in managerial or supervisory position. Mail resume to Fun In Irvine Education, Inc. 7545 Irvine Center Dr. #200, Irvine, CA 92618 Attn: Ms. Lee.

OFFICE Office Coordinator Bachelor Degree in Any Major req'd.
Resume to Woo Seung Jin.
Pink Beauty Supply & Salon
INC. 1312 E Alondra Blvd,
Compton, CA 90221

Amgen Inc.; Operations Manager; Thousand Oaks, CA: Formulate and apply mathematical modeling and other optimizing methods to develop and interpret information that assists management with decision making. Telecommuting permitted. Interested candidates mail resume to: HR Connect c/o TM Review @ Amgen Inc. 2202 N. Westshore Blvd., Suite 650, Tampa, FL 33607. Must reference Job #20516.1041. The annual salary range for this position in the U.S. is $108,000.00 – $132,000.00 per year. Also, this position offers stock, retirement, medical, life and disability insurance and eligibility for an annual bonus or for sales roles, other incentive compensation. For more details visit https://careers.amgen.com/life-at-amgen/benefits/.

Operations Management Analyst for CLT Computers, Inc. Bachelor Degree in Biz Admin or International Business or foreign equivalent. Salary: $62,982/Year. Rsm to: HR, 5525 S Soto St, Vernon, CA 90058.

Order Clerks: Obtain customer's names, billing information and items to be purchased; & prepare invoices, shipping documents, & contracts. $18/hr. Mail resume to: NW Business Center Inc, 3600 Wilshire Blvd Suite 1016, Los Angeles, CA 90010 (job site).

Pharmacist needed. Mail to San Marcos Pharmacy, Inc., 16279 Paramount Blvd., Suite G, Paramount, CA 90723 .

Product Manager. Mng the design, dev, & testing of new prod featrs. Reqs: Master's in Bus. Analytics, Bus. Admin, or rltd fld & 2 yrs exp in the job offrd or rltd pstn. May be subs w/Bachelor's in Bus. Analytics, Bus. Admin, or rltd fld & 5 yrs exp in job offrd or rltd pstn. Skills/Knwldg: Mrkt Resrch, SQL, Bus. & Data Analytcs, Prod Roadmap Dev & Prototyping. Lttl Travel: 24%. 40hrs/wk. Salary: $143,978.00/yr Job Site: Long Beach, CA Email Resume to Kaarya, LLC to hr@mykaarma.com.

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Los Angeles Times

Employment

Program Manager. Develop & own roadmaps by defining clear & concise focus areas, identify desired outcomes, & define measurements to achieve those goals. Req. Bach. in Applied Info. Mgmt. Systems, or rel. field & 6 mos. exp. in job or 6 mos. exp. as Proj. Mgr., Bus. Intelligence Prog. Mgr., or rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ., training &/or exp. is acceptable. Wage Range: $110,012/yr to $185,730/yr. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Send resume ref#22091 to K. Finnsson, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc., PO Box 18979, Irvine, CA 92623.

All in One, Inc. seeks
A) ERP Project Manager in Glendale, CA to supprt sw dvlpmnt, analysts & proj mngmnt of all ERP systm related modules & intgrtd systms. No trvl; WFH benefit. Salary: $136,157/yr &
B) VMS Solution Analyst in Torrance, CA to identify & resolve billing discrepancies. No trvl; no telecomm. Salary: $72,134/yr. Email resumes to: junland@ain1.com.

Project Management Professional Senior sought by CH2M Hill, Inc. Los Angeles, CA. Lead delivery of engineering, planning and design of transportation projects. Salary range: $128,045-$246,600/year. Resumes to Miriam Garcia at 818 Town and Country Blvd, Ste 500, Houston, TX 77024. Refer to Job Code: CA0123DS.

Project Manager (Los Angeles, CA) Determine/obtain resources needed for prjct, incl ppl, tools, equip, materials, preconst srvcs, & intrnl srvcs. Direct/supervise actvts relatd to contract admin, change orders, submittals, procurement, prjct financial projections, & sched reqs to ensure prjcts are completed to qlty, profit, Safety/Zero Harm, & sustainability stndrds. Funct as Interface mgmt w/ airport terminals. Reqs: Bach construc. mgmt, civil eng'g, or rltd field, & 3 yrs of construc. prjct engineer or estimator exp. Exp w/ build'g codes & material comptblty, value engin'r prcsss, & residentl & commrercl const prjct coord; develop'g prjct & value cost reports; bdgt forecast'g; subcont award & procurement; & est prep for plan'g, organiz'g, & sched'g in const indstry; build'g effective rltnshps w/ cust, design team, subcont, suppliers, & rltd user groups; execut'g const prjct admin & daily ops; & prepar'g & maintain'g prjct sched, milestone dates, & close-out checklists. Prof w/ contract reqs incld'g bonds, fees, notifs, scheds, report'g, & costs. $120,060-160,822 p/y. Res: Balfour Beatty Construction LLC, https://www.balfourbeattyus.com/work-with-us/opportunities

Quality Assurance Specialist in Glendale, CA. Salary $75,000. Reference this ad and send resume to JSat Automation Inc, 1730 Walton Road, Ste 100, Blue Bell, PA 19422 or samantha.ziegler@jsatautomation.com

At A2 Bio's Agoura Hills, CA office, the following positions are open:

Quality Control Associates II (Job ID SL-2023): Prfrm bnch lb duts. May be able 2 wrk frm a hom ofce a fw dys per wk in the LA area. Salary: $78,000 - $108,000.

Senior Associate Scientists (Job ID AZ-2023): Wrk in a mltdscplnry lab-bsd tem 2 sprt th dscvry of thrptc cnidts 2 tret srus ilnses in the areas of imuno-onclgy & nflmtn. May be able 2 wrk frm a hom ofce up 2 a fw dys per wk in the LA area. Salary: $111,000 - $141,000.

Snd resume w. Job ID to E. Wallage @ recruiting@a2biotherapeutics.com

Employment

CSS Payroll Co, L.P. (Los Angeles, CA) seeks Recruiting Manager, US & Canada to advse & dsgn intrvw prcesses, inflnce teams to imprve dsgn of panel intrvws, bldout approp exrcses to intrvw & assess candidates wrldwide agnst roles & on behlf of hgh-grwth startup. Reqs Bach in Int'l Relatns, Globl Studies, or HR +3yrs exp in pos offrd or a Recruitng pos. All reqd exp mustve incld wrkng w/ recruitng tools & sys such as LinkedIn Recruitr &/or Applcnt Trackng Systm (ATS); bldng resume DBs, cndctng intrnet srcng, & creatng compensatn data & candidate mrkt mappng; condctng competncy based intrvws & bhvrl based intrvws, condctng salary & offr negotiatns w/ equity compnents; dvlpng & mngng recruitng rprts & dshbrds; dsgng hirng prcesses from inceptn to completn; estblshng & trackng metrcs to measre prfmnce of recruitng team, hirng mngrs & intrvwrs. 1yr of reqd exp mustve incld: mngng & coachng recruitng team of direct rprts & recruitng wrk w/in hgh grwth startup. Telecommtng prmttd from any US locatn. Salary $150,550/yr. E-mail res to: catarino.ruiz@cloudkitchens.com.

Research associate sought by Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA. Master's or equiv in Biological Sciences, Molecular Microbiology or rel field, plus 1 yr rel exp. $73,382-$90,979/yr. Send resume to: Sonya Gold, Sr. Immigration Specialist, 6500 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90048; or apply at https://jobs.cedars-sinai.edu

VP Sales and Marketing (Gardena, CA): Plan, recruit, direct, organize and have control of territory mgrs, sales and sales suppt people to accomplish co objectives. Requires 30% domestic and 10% int'l travel. Salary: $260,000/yr. Resumes: HR, Cavity Sliders USA, Inc., 548 Finney Ct., Gardena, CA, 90248

MULTIPLE POSITIONS. Software Developers. El Segundo, CA. BS in CS, SWE, IT or rltd + 3 yrs exp. $102,544-$124,987/yr. FPT USA Corp., vivien.le@fsoft.com.vn

Software Engineer (Android) sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Remote Work Permitted. Snap's remote team members are expected to travel for mandatory in-person gatherings & to fulfill bus. needs, approx. 4-6 times/yr. Dsg, dvlp & modify s/ware apps & sys. Base salary: $130,000-$190,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #SWEA-0423-JW. EOE.

SOFTWARE QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYST & TESTER
(corporate title: Sr. Software Development Engineer in Test (SDET), Services) job open @ Fox Cable Network Services, LLC in Los Angeles, CA. Telecommtg is permitted up to 50%/wk w/normal commuting distance of Fox office in Los Angeles, CA. Pursuant to state & local pay disclosure rqmts, pay range, w/final offer amnt depndnt on educatn, sklls, exp & locatn is: $147,000 - $161,700/yr. Full details & rqmts, and to apply, visit our website at www.foxcareers.com. Job #R50021874

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Employment

Prophecy Consulting Seeks Software Developer. Must have MS in Computer Sc., Software or Electrical/Electronics Engr. or related or a BS with 5+ years of experience. Work site: Irvine, CA Apply: kumar@prophecyconsulting.com

Sr. Software Engineer, eBiz sought by Automobile Club of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA to design & develop advanced software applications. BS + 5 yrs. exp. Salary $147,410 - $179,300/yr. Resumes to soler.sam@aaa-calif.com. EOE.

Statistician I: Support course evaluation activities. Reqs Master's in Stats, Applied Analytics, Educ Stats/Res Methods or eq field w/2 yrs exp as statistician, analyst, data analytics assistant, or eq. Must be authorized to work F/T in US without employer sponsor. Hybrid remote. Location: Los Angeles CA. Pay scale $82,889.45-$101,619.52/yr. Email resume w/"4116.212ah" in subject line to University of Southern California, academicoperationshr@usc.edu

Techncl Prjct Mgrs at Keenan in Torrance, CA. Plan & mnge IT prjcts for employee benefits systm SW packages. Telecom ok. $128,750/yr. Apply: recruiter1@keenan.com; Subj: Job ID# TPM824.

Arm Op/Tech: op & maintain camera & film equip; prep, assemble & op gyrostabilized remote heads; maintain composition & camera angles thru film; troubleshoot tech & op probs & structure; maintain equip secure. Min. req: HS plus 1 yr rel exp. Exp w/ gyrostabilized remote arms req'd. Travel req'd. Telecommute Benefit: Nat'l Telecommuting—position allows employee reside anywhere U.S. & perform work exclusively from worker's home. Salary: $54,000-$84,000/yr. Send res & cvr ltr: HR, Camera Car Sys, dba Filmotechnic USA, 1524 W. 132nd St, Gardena, CA 90249. No calls/emails. EOE.

Intuit Inc. has openings for the following positions (all levels/types) in Woodland Hills, California. Some positions may allow for telecommuting.
Principal Design Technologists (Job Code: I-6828) Lead the development of design principles, standards, scalable practices, frame works, and libraries in design prototypes ad motion. Expected base pay range $163,891 - $221,735/yr
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Intuit provides a competitive compensation package with a strong pay for performance rewards approach. The expected base pay ranges for these positions are listed above. These positions will be eligible for a cash bonus, equity rewards and benefits, in accordance with our applicable plans and programs (see more about our compensation and benefits at intuit.com/careers/benefits/full-time-employees). Pay offered is based on factors such as job-related knowledge, skills, education, experience, and work location. To drive ongoing pay equity for employees, Intuit conducts regular comparisons across categories of ethnicity and gender. To apply, email resume to open_roles@intuit.com. You must include the job code on your resume/cover letter.

Employment

Technician: 2 yrs work exp. req'd, 40 hrs/wk. $63,000/year. Mail/email resume: Vazq Communications - 655 N. Central Ave., #1760 Glendale, CA 91203. vazqcomm@gmail.com

TECHNOLOGY
Apple Inc. has multiple positions available in Los Angeles, CA. Refer to Req# & email resume to jobadv@apple.com: Product Design Engineer (REQ#2501656) Led the dsign & dvlpmnt of new cttng-edge prdcts to expnd our indutry ledng prdct prtflio. Internl Trvl req'd 10%. $144,500.00 - $217,500.00/yr. Apple is an EOE/AA m/f/disability/vets.

Senior Application and Product Support needed by DIRECTV, LLC in El Segundo, CA [and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.; may work from home] to identify major trends in end user and system behavior. Our Senior Application and Product Supports earn between $136,157 to $183,700 yearly. DIRECTV, LLC offers amazing benefits from health insurance to tuition reimbursement and paid time off to discounts on products and services. Apply at https://jobs.directv.com/, select JOB SEARCH and APPLY and select Search by Requisition Number at the left bottom of the page and enter Job Number: R221064.

Mgr, TV Production Accounting (Culver City, CA) – Review Corp mo./qtrly close related to Balance Sheet/assoc analysis funct with improv./stdzn/simplification of funct/outputs for TV Prod. Prep mo. cash flow rptng pkg/analyze variances b/w actual & bdgt/forecast. Review by title Rev & Op Income balances & actual vs. bdgt/forecast variance anlys. Manage vendor workflow. ID/implement opps to eliminate low value work/stdz proc/enable benefits from tech (RP, SAP, S4/Hana). Prep SAP/excel rpts for ad hoc anlys req'd by Ops/Corp/Tax. Review/doc proc in accord with SOX/audits. Anticip. base salary is w/i stated range of $106,974 - $125,200/yr. 40 hrs/wk. Req: Master's in Finance, Acctng or foreign equiv +1 yr. prog exp in job or in prod acctng; or Bachelor's in Finance, Acctng, or foreign equiv +5 yrs of post-bach exp in job or in prod acctng. Email resume to: pando@spe.sony.com, Ref: MGRTV PROD. Sony Pictures Entertainment, 10202 W. Washington Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232. Principals only. US work auth req'd if hired. EOE.

Textile Purchasing Specialist (LA, CA) Source textile/fabrics/suppliers for garment manufacturing. Bachelor's in textile development related. Resume to: Edgemine Inc. 1801 E 50th St, LA, CA 90058

Designer I sought by MVE + Partners, Los Angeles, CA to organize proj dsgn ideas & info using CADD on Revit, SketchUp, other graphic softw, or conventional drafting methods, based on prelim concepts, sketches, spec sheets, & other data, to produce dsgns, working drawings, schedules, details/notes. Req.: BS + 2 yr. exp. Range: $72.3k - $77.5k/yr. Send resumes to Linda Moreno, HR Mgr. at recruiting@mve-architects.com REF: DAA-23

Veterinarian (Job Site: L.A., CA), Stewart Veterinary Group, Inc. Salary: $76K/yr. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Science, or related & CA Veterinary LIC. req'd. Resume to 12241 Wilshire Blvd. L.A., CA 90025

Embracing creative process at Festival of Books

[**Festival,** from B1]
midafternoon talk, Day One of the festival featured events with "Friends" star Matthew Perry, "All About That Bass" singer Meghan Trainor, "Bad Feminist" author and culture critic Roxane Gay and children's lit megastar Lois Lowry. There were also several panel discussions focused on memoir-writing as well as talks on climate change, justice and journalism.

Some of Day Two's most-anticipated events include talks with singer and social justice activist Joan Baez and voting rights activist Stacey Abrams, and a panel on banned books.

In addition to books, music, a poetry stage, a food court and more than 250 vendors and exhibitors, the festival offered an array of funky interactive stops, including crossword puzzle stations scattered about the bustling campus where passersby could stop to solve puzzles together on giant whiteboards.

Before Zevin's event kicked off, the line to get in snaked around the side of the theater, a testament to the success of "Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow," which tells the story of a pair of adolescent video game enthusiasts who grow up to create games of their own.

"The title," Zevin said, "is about the fact that every day you're alive is a chance to start again and it kind of becomes a metaphor for video games."

But the book is not so much about playing games, Zevin said, as it is about the process of making them — or any kind of art.

"One of the best things you can do for yourself as an artist is to get good at failing," she quipped. "I'm quite good at it."

For some attendees, that was the part of her talk they related to the most.

"That hit this deep, deep part of me," said Joy Park, a 24-year-old actor who emerged from the theater beaming.

"I felt seen as an artist," she said. "And in a weird way it encouraged me, thinking about failure as part of the creative process."

Photographs by DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

RICHARD STOKES, left, and his son Karter, 8, thumb through a book at the two-day Festival of Books, which closes Sunday.

For Kyle Kallman, the festival marked his second consecutive week of creative rejuvenation.

Last weekend, the 30-year-old went to the Coachella music festival, and he drew an unlikely comparison between the two events.

"Being in a massive field of 100,000 people was cool," he said. "But now being in a full auditorium of book people is the same vibe."

He noted that the book festival had "less drugs and more of a morning crowd."

Around midday, a few dozen people stopped by Mudd Hall to hear Kevin Merida, The Times' executive editor, discuss journalism and the paper's initiatives focused on finding new ways to cover mental health, religion and life in Los Angeles.

"It's a magical place," he said, shifting into an impromptu ode to the city. "Everyone can have their own experience here, there are multiple L.A.s. You can't define it by one thing."

A few steps away, Andrew Tonkovich spent the day at a exhibitor table giving out copies of the Santa Monica Review. As the editor of Santa Monica College's semiannual literary journal, he's been to the festival almost every year since it debuted at UCLA in 1996.

The poetry has been "really good this year," he said, though he acknowledged he wouldn't get to see much else because he's usually too busy "proselytizing" the review.

His shirt, however, seemed perfectly suited to proselytize a book festival. It read: "Make America Read Again."

MATTHEW PERRY, right, discusses his memoir with The Times' Matt Brennan at the festival, which featured books, music, a poetry stage and over 250 vendors.

Prized books span biographies, history, comics and sci-fi

[**Winners,** from B1]

The Book Prizes ceremony is a prologue to the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, the nation's largest literary and cultural festival, which brings together more than 500 writers, musicians, artists and chefs, hundreds of exhibitors and an estimated 150,000 attendees each year.

James Ellroy, best known for his L.A.-based crime novels "L.A. Confidential" and "The Black Dahlia" — and most recently "Widespread Panic" — was honored with the 2022 Robert Kirsch Award for lifetime achievement, an award given to an author whose work focuses on the American West.

"Yeaaa, you ain't nobody's audience but mine, yeaaa," Ellroy growled into the microphone during his passionate acceptance speech. "I'm from LA, geography is destiny. The film noir epicenter. I lived here, I grew up here. I went to church here, I got in trouble here. But what I did most of all was read books here. In the end I'm just a [dumb] kid who just loves to read."

The Christopher Isherwood Prize for Autobiographical Prose went to Javier Zamora, whose memoir, "Solito," recounts his unaccompanied 4,000-mile journey from El Salvador to the United States in 1999, when he was 9 years old.

"I can't think of a more fitting prize and a more fitting place to be recognized for my work as a Salvadoran immigrant," Zamora said after accepting the award. "More than 1 million of us have been displaced by state oppression, racism, homophobia and gender-based violence. When you acknowledge me, you acknowledge all of us."

The 2022 Innovator's Award went to the Freedom to Read Foundation, recognizing its work in protecting the public's right to access information in libraries and helping provide legal counsel to librarians fighting to preserve their 1st Amendment rights. The foundation has also been active in documenting and opposing the current nationwide wave of book bans plaguing the country.

Peter Coyl, president of the Freedom to Read Foundation, accepted the award with a fervent call to arms. He cited that more than 1,200 books were challenged last year in efforts to remove them from libraries, "a 713% increase over the last two years."

"Librarians are being harassed, threatened and fired," he said. "Whether it is a history of racial oppression in America or books on the human sexual experience, every person in this country has a right to find that information in their local library, unfettered by shame.

"I issue a challenge — do not be silent. Now is not the time to be complacent," Coyl added. "The right to read freely is an American right. Let that be known."

Jamila Rowser and Robyn Smith won the graphic novel/comic prize for "Wash Day Diaries," a tribute to Black joy that follows four best friends living in the Bronx. Accepting the award on behalf of both winners, Rowser said she believes she and Smith are the first Black women to have even been nominated for this award. "We shouldn't have to prove books like 'Wash Day Diaries' should be published, so I hope this will pave the way for more comics like ours."

The poetry prize was awarded to Dionne Brand for "Nomenclature: New and Collected Poems" a collection that displays "Brand's ongoing body of thought — trenchant, lyrical, assonant, discordant and meaning-making," according to the judges' citation.

Image/Graphic

In science and technology, Sabrina Imbler was honored for "How Far the Light Reaches: A Life in Ten Sea Creatures," which explores themes of survival and sexuality, community and care, while weaving the extraordinary world of marine biology with the author's personal account of family and relationships.

"Writing this book helped me come out as trans, which I can't recommend enough," Imbler joked, before adding that we're living in a time when the trans and queer community is under siege. "The ocean proves that changing sex is the most natural thing in the world. If you don't believe me ask a clown fish."

"Spear," Nicola Griffith's "queer Arthurian masterpiece for the modern era," earned the Ray Bradbury Prize for Science Fiction, Fantasy & Speculative Fiction, while the Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction prize went to Aamina Ahmad's "The Return of Faraz Ali," in which a young girl meets a violent death in Lahore's red-light district. Ahmad's debut poses and explores the question "Whom do we choose to protect, and at what price?"

In YA literature, judges honored another work on youth and sacrifice: Lyn Miller-Lachmann for "Torch," which follows three teens in 1969 Czechoslovakia as they struggle to survive in the wake of their friend's self-immolation.

See the full list of finalists and winners below.

Biography

Tomiko Brown-Nagin, "Civil Rights Queen: Constance Baker Motley and the Struggle for Equality"

Beverly Gage, "G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century"

Jennifer Homans, "Mr. B: George Balanchine's 20th Century"

David Maraniss, "Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe"

Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa, "His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice"

Fiction

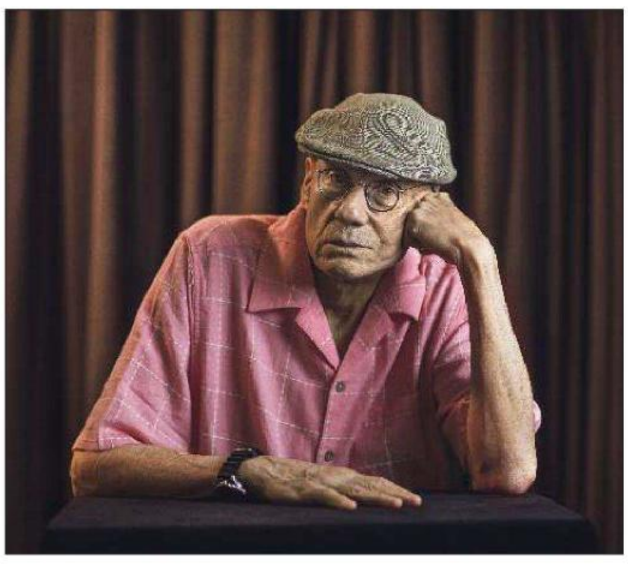
Mircea Cartarescu, "Solenoid" (translation by Sean Cotter)

Anna Dorn, "Exalted"

James Hannaham, "Didn't Nobody Give a S— What Happened to Carlotta"

Jamil Jan Kochai, "The Haunting of Hajji Hotak and Other Stories"

Fernanda Melchor, "Paradais" (translation by Sophie Hughes)


MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

JAMES ELLROY, known for his L.A.-based crime novels, received the Robert Kirsch achievement prize.

Graphic novels/comics

Alex Graham, "Dog Biscuits"

Yamada Murasaki, "Talk to My Back" (translation by Ryan Holmberg)

Tommi Parrish, "Men I Trust"

Jamila Rowser and Robyn Smith, "Wash Day Diaries"

Noah Van Sciver, "Joseph Smith and the Mormons"

History

Margaret A. Burnham, "By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners"

Hugh Eakin, "Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America"

Kerri K. Greenidge, "The Grimkes: The Legacy of Slavery in an American Family"

Andrew M. Wehrman, "The Contagion of Liberty: The Politics of Smallpox in the American Revolution"

Donald Yacovone, "Teaching White Supremacy: America's Democratic Ordeal and the Forging of our National Identity"

Mystery/thriller

Rachel Howzell Hall, "We Lie Here"

Laurie R. King, "Back to the Garden"

Tracey Lien, "All That's Left Unsaid"

Alex Segura, "Secret Identity"

Peng Shepherd, "The Cartographers"

Poetry

Dionne Brand, "Nomenclature: New and Collected Poems"

James Cagney, "Martian: The Saint of Loneliness"

Marwa Helal, "Ante body"

Cynthia Parker-Ohene, "Daughters of Harriet: Poems"

Solmaz Sharif, "Customs: Poems"

Science & technology

Juli Berwald, "Life on the Rocks: Building a Future for Coral Reefs"

Jessica Hernandez, "Fresh Banana Leaves: Healing Indigenous Landscapes Through Indigenous Science"

Sabrina Imbler, "How Far the Light Reaches: A Life in Ten Sea Creatures"

James Vincent, "Beyond Measure: The Hidden History of Measurement From Cubits to Quantum Constants"

Ed Yong, "An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us"

Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction

Aamina Ahmad, "The Return of Faraz Ali"

Maayan Eitan, "Love"

Sidik Fofana, "Stories from the Tenants Downstairs"

Oscar Hokeah, "Calling for a Blanket Dance"

Morgan Thomas, "Manywhere: Stories"

Ray Bradbury Prize for Science Fiction, Fantasy & Speculative Fiction

Sara Gran, "The Book of the Most Precious Substance"

Nicola Griffith, "Spear"

Alex Jennings, "The Ballad of Perilous Graves"

Ray Nayler, "The Mountain in the Sea: A Novel"

George Saunders, "Liberation Day: Stories"

Young-adult literature

Samira Ahmed, "Hollow Fires"

Lyn Miller-Lachmann, "Torch"

Sabaa Tahir, "All My Rage"

Andrew Joseph White, "Hell Followed With Us"

Kip Wilson, "The Most Dazzling Girl in Berlin"

Current interest

Anand Giridharadas, "The Persuaders: At the Front Lines of the Fight for Hearts, Minds, and Democracy"

Sarah Kendzior, "They Knew: How a Culture of Conspiracy Keeps America Complacent"

Dahlia Lithwick, "Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America"

Luke Mogelson, "The Storm is Here: An American Crucible"

Dorothy Roberts, "Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families — and How Abolition Can Build a Safer World"

Obituaries

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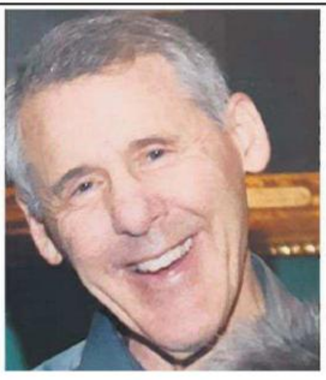


Howard Rosen

July 25, 1939 - March 24, 2023

Howard was born in Chicago and moved to Boyle Heights in 1954 where he graduated from Roosevelt High School and later UCLA, receiving a B.S. in chemistry and an M.A. and Ph.D. in botany. He taught genetics for more than thirty years at Cal State LA and was granted professor emeritus after retiring. He was highly regarded by students whom he would run into all over Los Angeles and even once in Rome. It was also his pleasure to see former students as his family dermatologist and veterinarian.

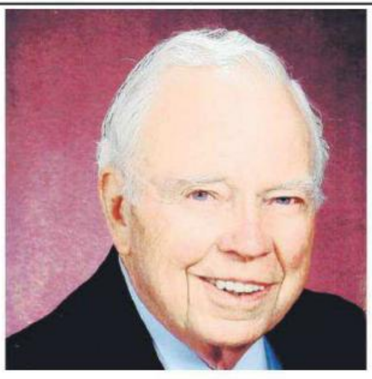
Howie married his beloved spouse, Connie, in 1964. They had two adored children and settled in Echo Park, Los Angeles. They were original members of a local babysitting and food coop, and proud supporters and believers in public education, unions, and progressive causes.

Although he was a loyal and ardent sports fan who rooted for UCLA, the Lakers, the Dodgers, the Chicago Bears, and, after a post-doc in Ann Arbor, U of M, Howie was well known for being too nervous to watch games in real time if his teams were playing. He was a strong believer in social justice and was always willing to listen thoughtfully to others and respond with goodwill and humor. He was incredibly kind, never talked down to anyone, and believed deeply in equality. He was a great tipper and an excellent teller of corny jokes.

Howie loved slapstick, George Carlin, classical music, mystery books, musicals, fantasy football, and watching dog shows, as well as their many rescue dogs who loved the whole family, but always loved Howard best. He also played a mean game of bridge.

He is predeceased by his parents Lottie and Sam, and beloved and survived by wife Connie, brother and sister-in-law, Marty and Karen, children, Bobby and Diane, grandchildren, Bobby Jr. and Raven, her fiancé Lucas and son Loyal, nephews and nieces, Peter, Kristen, Tania, Sage, and Hunter, and best friends Roberta and Bill, and their sons Kaden and Dagan.

A celebration of life will take place on May 7 in Elysian Park.



Norman Albert Slaught, Sr.

May 12, 1930 - April 13, 2023

Norman (Norm), a native Angeleno, returned to his loving God on April 13, 2023 surrounded by his wife of 68 years, Claire O'Connor Slaught, and his children. Norm was born to Francis Ellsworth Slaught and Ann Martin Slaught at Saint Vincent Hospital, Los Angeles. At a very young age, Norm moved with his parents and two brothers, Martin and John, to La Canada, CA. Norm attended La Canada Elementary School from kindergarten through 8th grade. While Norm attended John Muir High School in Pasadena, he lettered in 4 different sports, and became Senior Class President.

Upon graduating from John Muir High School, he was awarded a baseball scholarship to attend Santa Clara University. He proceeded to play tennis for SCU. In his senior year at Santa Clara, he was chosen Captain of the tennis team and became the #1 player in the league. While attending Santa Clara, he also participated in the ROTC program, and was commissioned 2nd lieutenant in the US Army.

In 1954, Norm met Mary Claire O'Connor of Los Angeles. They were married on July 4, 1955 at Cathedral Chapel Church and immediately moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, where Norm was stationed at Schofield Army Base. Upon completing his tour of duty with the Army, Norm and Claire, along with their new baby, Martin, returned to California and made their home in La Canada, California. In a few short years, when their family increased quickly, they moved to a larger home in Pasadena, and eventually settled in San Marino, California where they continued to raise their eight children.

In his professional life, Norm enjoyed over 52 years in financial services. He received many designations and recognitions, including serving as President of the Life Underwriters Association, President of the Estate Planning Council of the San Gabriel Valley, and Life Member of the Million Dollar Round Table. Norm was also past president of the Pasadena Serra Club, and enjoyed his membership in Los Angeles Rotary #5, eventually relocating to the San Marino Rotary Club. He was a longtime member of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses.

A very large part of Norm's life was sports, and especially tennis. Norm played national level tournaments at every age group into his 80's and competed at the highest national level in Father & Son doubles. He encouraged his 8 children to get involved in athletics. It paid off, because several of his children also received college athletic scholarships. However, his greatest love was faith, family, and friends. As a devoted Catholic his entire life, he protected all of his loves with a passion.

In addition to his wife Claire, Norm is survived by his eight children; Martin (Sharmel), Kenneth (Elizabeth), Theodore (Yvonne), James (Julie), Marianne (Patrick), Daniel (Michelle), John (Robin), and Norman Jr. (Kathleen). He is also survived by his 27 grandchildren, his 5 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Norm is also survived by his younger brother, John Rhodes Slaught (Molly) of Palos Verdes, CA and his brother-in-law Joseph A. O'Connor (Jane) of Dana Point, CA. Norm is predeceased by his older brother, The Reverend Monsignor Martin E. Slaught, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, his sister-in-law Adrianne Slaught, and Melitta Slaught, his daughter-in-law.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate any donations to be made to either the Catholic Education Foundation at 3424 Wilshire Blvd, 3rd floor, Los Angeles, CA 90010, or Huntington Memorial Hospital, Philanthropy Department, at 100 West California Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91105.

A funeral mass will be celebrated on Friday, April 28, 2023 at 4:00 PM, at St. Bede the Venerable Catholic Church, 215 Foothill Blvd. La Canada Flintridge, CA. Private graveside services Saturday at Holy Cross Cemetery, Culver City, CA.

O'Connor Mortuary (949) 581-4300

www.oconnormortuary.com

Jeffrey Allan Banks

May 18, 1936 - April 16, 2023

Jeffrey Banks loved genuine conversation and hated small talk. People who knew him cherished him and were surprised to find themselves opening up to him about their lives. He helped people laugh about life's struggles and left them grateful that someone understood.

Jeff, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and professor emeritus at Pepperdine University, died at home, surrounded by family at 86. Were it not for a global pandemic, he intended to teach until his last day on earth.

Jeff was born in Glasgow, Scotland, to Bertram Banks, a greengrocer, violinist and talented carpenter – who sparked his love of music and wry humor – and Julia (Kaminsky) Banks – a prolific knitter and mensch and the source of his generous, loving nature. His early memories included happy times with his mother, grandmothers, beloved aunties, and cousins and fearful moments in bomb shelters during the war.

In 1948, Jeff and his parents sailed on the Queen Mary (second class, he liked to add), entering through Ellis Island, to New York. The family soon moved west to California where he attended Le Conte Junior High. At Hollywood High, he made all-city on the tennis team, and then played at Santa Monica City College. His Army training in the segregated south, in Fort Gordon, Georgia, made a lasting impression about inequities in the U.S. He minored in the subject closest to his heart, music, but received his B.S. in accounting and an M.B.A. in behavioral science and management at UCLA. By the north campus library, he met his wife, Sheryl Janis, a bright literature student he thought was too smart for him. Two weeks later, he asked her to marry him. She laughed. But a year later she reminded him to ask again. Their marriage, a beacon of warmth and light to so many, lasted 59 years. He made her laugh every day.

From his wife and her cousin Barry Gittleson, he honed his social acuity and a spirit of adventure, and from his leftist in-laws, Geraldine and Harold Janis, he developed a lifelong commitment to social justice.

As a young man, Jeff worked at his dad's liquor store, Banks of Scotland. After college, he worked at Hughes Aircraft Research Labs and then with his in-laws at the family company, Club Supply, for 28 years. He palled around with the guys in the warehouse, took care of business associates and was an ear for office staff. At 30, at the encouragement of his wife, he went back to school and got his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at California Graduate Institute, while they raised three daughters. His dissertation reflected what he'd learned with Sherry, "The Relationship between Sense of Humor and Success in Marriage." He taught at Pasadena City College, L.A. City College, and CSU-Northridge, until a former student lured him to Pepperdine, where he spent 35 years teaching. In 1994, he sold the family business and became a full-time professor and occasional management consultant.

In his free time, Jeff traveled internationally, took beautiful photographs, played classical guitar and took up the bagpipes. He adored Bach, Gilbert & Sullivan, Gershwin, and Sondheim. And he befriended every dog he met.

The courses he taught offer a glimpse into the core of his being: service learning, social action and justice, and human relations and values. He also worked closely with the national Posse Foundation, supporting outstanding college students from diverse backgrounds. He and Sherry taught and guided summer internship programs for Pepperdine students in London, Paris, Lausanne, Buenos Aires and Beijing.

Teaching and connecting with young people was his true calling. He had a particular knack for asking tough questions and getting to the core of people's passions, worries, hopes, and values. Students loved him for his heart and humanity; alumni and colleagues sought his guidance. A note on his office door said: Students don't interrupt my work; students are my work.

He was the ultimate girl dad, generous and affectionate, kvelling at his daughters' accomplishments and supporting them through the challenges of adulthood. Jeff and Sherry exposed their daughters to opera, theater, the symphony, and museums and traveled with them to four continents. That spirit also pervaded in his relationships with his grandchildren. He modeled humor and compassion, beamed at their academic successes, cherished their creative endeavors, and proudly displayed their art.

In addition to his wife, Jeff is survived by his daughters, Dr. Erika Banks (husband Gavriel Rosenfeld); Gabrielle Banks; and Prof. Miranda Banks (partner Courtney Lilly); grandchildren Julia Rosenfeld, Benjamin Rosenfeld, and Jonah Banks; niece Sharmon Goodman; and cousins Elise, David, and Jonathan Sochart; Anne Nickolay; and Mark and Karen Smith.

The family will hold a memorial on June 4. Pepperdine is planning a separate tribute. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to the Jeff Banks Scholars Fund at One Voice: https://kindest.com/one-voice. Jeff's family also welcomes remembrances at bit.ly/JeffBanks.

Stories live on.
Tell theirs.

Share your loved one's story.

placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries

Los Angeles Times
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Carmina Duran Aceves

April 1, 1930 - April 10, 2023

Carmina Duran Aceves, a devoted mother, talented educator and inspiration to those she knew, died peacefully April 10, 2023, in Los Angeles. She was 93. Born in Madrid, Spain, she was well educated and well traveled, spending extended periods of time with nieces and nephews in Europe. She met her husband, Raul Aceves, while he was on duty with the U.S. Army in Europe, taking a class in Germany. They got married in Spain and later moved together to his native Los Angeles. She taught Spanish to children and adults at several Los Angeles schools, making lifelong friendships. Her pride and joy were her four children, instilling in them an appreciation of education, art, literature and music. Her children include an executive at a media company, an elementary school teacher and two university professors. Her home was a hub of activity, from family celebrations to gatherings of friends, filled with tasty tapas, hearty entrees and lively conversations. An accomplished pianist, she enjoyed attending the symphony. A member of Visitation Parish, she attended Mass weekly. In her latter years, she was blessed by a close friendship with caregiver Guadalupe Diaz. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mercedes and Francisco Duran; her husband, Raul Aceves; and her four siblings. She is survived by son John Aceves and his wife, Sue Polka; son William Aceves and his wife, Seema Aceves; daughter Marilo Aceves and her husband, Alec Rosenberg; daughter Tisa Aceves; and three grandchildren. A private service will be held at Visitation Catholic Church.

Sharon Marie Bassett

December 28, 1941 - April 6, 2023

Sharon Bassett was a woman of intellect, wisdom, wit and compassion.

She had a passion for learning that permeated her life. From her BA from Elmira College to a PhD from the University of Rochester to a year at the London School of Economics. She began her university English teaching career at CSULA in 1967 and retired after 37 years of engaging students with literature and critical thinking.

Before her university retirement, Sharon began the study of psychoanalysis. She earned her second PhD from the New Center for Psychoanalysis and began a 22-year career as an analyst bringing experience and a deep understanding to help others gain the self-awareness and to live more fully.

Sharon shared her gifts with a close circle of friends, her students and clients. A generosity freely given.

She is survived by her partner Patricia Giermann, her many dear friends, her brother Bill, her nieces (Kelly and Kris) and her nephew (Michael).

Sharon Bassett: admired, respected, loved.

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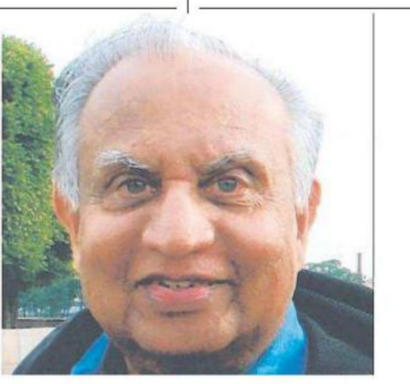

Nagendra Nath Reddy

November 18, 1937 - April 12, 2023

Dr. Kantabattina Nagendra Nath Reddy (aka Nagi or Ken) passed away on April 12, 2023 after a battle with his 3rd cancer. He was the son of K. Rami Reddy and Gnanamma Reddy, born on November 18, 1937 in Bangalore, India. He was part of a large family of 4 brothers and 5 sisters who all were college educated. He received a Bachelors of Science from VR College Nellore in 1955, a Masters of Science in Organic Chemistry from University of Saugor in 1959, and his PhD in Biochemistry from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1971.

Professor Reddy pursued his post-doctoral research at the Roswell Park Memorial Institute from 1968 to 1973 in Buffalo, NY before becoming an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology, College of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati from 1973-1980. He then moved to Los Angeles as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at USC School of Medicine from 1980 to 1990. He enjoyed working in the Biochemistry department as an educator for the first-year USC medical student curriculum.

He retired from academic research, but his active mind quickly became bored and he decided to pursue a new path, joining the LA County's Scientific Services Bureau and became a Senior Criminalist from 1991 - 1998. Some of the highlights of his career in the Criminology department included ride-alongs with the sheriffs and testifying in court. The professor in him embraced teaching courses to the LA County district attorneys and police officers.

Some other career highlights include:

He was the first person to correctly describe the mechanism of action of streptokinase's activation of plasminogen as first author of "Mechanism of action of human plasminogen by streptokinase. Presence of an active center in the streptokinase-plasminogen complex" published in Journal of Biological Chemistry in 1972.

Dr. Reddy authored over 20 publications in the field of fibrinolysis, culminating in a text titled "Fibrinolysis," published in 1980.

He was the recipient of a career development award from the NIH, elected member of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and a member of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

Later in life he endowed the Dr. Nagendranath Reddy Biological Sciences Thesis Prize at Caltech for the "graduating female PhD candidate in the division of Biological Engineering who produced the most outstanding thesis in the past year." The award has been given 5 times to date.

Many would describe him as a Renaissance man who had a great appreciation for the arts, photography, stamp collecting, and most of all reading. He spoke or read in 6 languages: English, Telegu, Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, and Sanskrit. It was important to him to experience other cultures through food, writings, music and travel.

He was also a dedicated family man. He was married to Dr. Saraswati K. Reddy, former LA County Coroner. They were married from1967 in India until her passing in 2006, and are survived by their two children, Dr. Kalpana K. Reddy and Dr. Sandip K. Reddy, and his three grandchildren. It gave him the greatest enjoyment to live in Leisure World, Seal Beach, CA where he was active in the poker and billiards clubs as well as to be close to his son and grandchildren to watch them grow up and be part of their lives.

Stories live on. *Tell theirs.*
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Nancy Rodwell Baker

Nancy Rodwell Baker died peacefully on April 10, 2023, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Nancy was born January 1, 1938, in Henderson, North Carolina, to Roy Oscar Rodwell and Rebecca Watkins Rodwell. Nancy graduated in 1958 from St. Mary's Junior College in Raleigh, NC. After briefly living in New Orleans and Richmond, Nancy moved to New York City and began working in the travel department of Banker's Trust. A natural beauty, Nancy was asked to star in a television commercial for the bank. A frame from that commercial was later used in print and billboard advertisements, including one of which hung in the outfield of Yankee Stadium. Through an introduction by a cousin, Nancy met her husband, an investment banker and fellow Southerner, William (Bill) Baker. When Bill changed firms, the two drove across the country with their young family to start a new life in Los Angeles in 1975.

For the next few decades, Nancy focused on raising her children, volunteering, and managing the household. She involved herself in her children's schools serving as the President of the Parent's Association at both Harvard Westlake School and Marlborough School. Nancy also dedicated her time to charitable organizations including Childhelp USA and the Junior League of Los Angeles. Later in life, Nancy enjoyed traveling the world, playing canasta and bridge with her friends, participating in book clubs and life groups, and doting on her grandchildren.

A devout Christian, Nancy was a lifelong active churchgoer and led a weekly bible study in her home for nearly twenty years. Nancy embodied many of the qualities stressed in Jesus' teachings– compassion, generosity, kindness, and selflessness. She is survived by her children, Rutland Baker, Tarry Payton (Wyn), and Ashley Dolieslager (Duane), seven grandchildren, Margaret, Katherine, and Caroline Payton, and Noah, Luke, Gibson, and Donovan Dolieslager, as well as her brother, Owen Moore (Missy). Also special to Nancy were her two nieces, Nancy Rodwell and Rebecca Kelley (Jason). She is preceded in death by her parents, brother, Roy Rodwell, and son, Garrett. The funeral and graveside services will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 9:00AM at Old North Church at Forest Lawn - Hollywood Hills, 6300 Forest Lawn Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068.

Dr. Herbert Alan Binder, DDS

May 8, 1944 - April 18, 2023

Services will be held at Pierce Brothers Mortuary at noon on Friday, April 28th.

1218 Glendon Avenue, Los Angeles 90024

Isabelle Friedlieb

November 22, 1918 - April 15, 2023

Isabelle Irene Bisgyer Friedlieb left us to join her beloved husband Morty on Saturday, April 15, 2023. Who was Isabelle? Independent; Loving; Matriarch of a large extended family; perpetual student; professional volunteer, including American Jewish congresswoman of the year; world traveler; world healer— t'kun olam.

Daughters, Jane Friedlieb Greenman and Ellen Friedlieb Mayer, son-in-law, Jack Mayer, grandchildren Marc Mayer, Leslie Mayer Spiegel, Margot Alyse Greenman, Jaclyn Greenman Mommen, and Danielle Greenman Gellert, 10 great-grandchildren, sister Judith and nieces and nephews all bid her a loving farewell. She taught us to work hard and to make a difference. She was a beacon to us all. She will remain so.

Anyone so wishes can honor her memory with a contribution to American Jewish Congress.

Obituaries

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Richard A. Chavira

September 13, 1949 - March 8, 2023

A true California dreamer. Born at the Japanese Hospital in Boyle Heights to Lucy Martinez and Manuel Chavira, their eldest of four, Richard Anthony Chavira never stopped dreaming. His 8th grade drafting teacher inspired his dream to become an architect. However, he had to insist to school authorities that a Mexican American could and should go to college. East Los Angeles College's outstanding architecture program was the gateway to Cal Poly Pomona, where he received his BS in Architecture. He always loved to draw and gained a deeper appreciation for art while at CPP. He later received an MFA at Cal State L. A. At each of these institutions he was discovered and mentored by talented professors, a few of whom became lifelong friends.

Richard met Barbara Boyle while attending ELAC and they married May 25, 1974. His dream of traveling to Europe to view historical art and architecture became a reality in 1977 resulting in a six-week tour. Thereafter, the kid from City Terrace traveled all over the world to almost every location on his "bucket list". In 1979, they purchased a home in Monterey Park and began major renovations in 1984, which became an ongoing project. His children, Anthony Manuel, Patrick Jon, and Richard Carlos, were his heart. Always a dedicated and involved father, he joined them on school field trips, camping, sporting events, Boy Scouts activities, to music lessons, theater and musical productions, or just hung around enjoying their company.

Richard was able to work at some outstanding architectural firms, beginning at Barrio Planners, Inc. After several years of studying, he obtained his Architecture license (1981) and fulfilled his dream of creating his own firm, HCA Partners (1992), together with a former employer and a friend he met at ELAC. In 2007 Richard and his son, Tony, began RACAIA which became successful beyond his expectations.

Inspired by art teachers at CPP and CSULA, Rich became a prolific artist and sold many pieces of his work. His favorite print entitled "Barbara", an impressionist print, was exhibited by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. In addition, he collected many pieces of arts and crafts. Periodically, he taught fine arts at ELAC and CSULA.

An involved community member, Richard donated his talent and time to many civic endeavors, including designing a structure at the Monterey Park La Loma Park for the use of the sports teams, their families, and visitors. Richard encouraged other young people to pursue their dreams. He sponsored an annual scholarship for ELAC students transferring to universities to become architects, a few of whom he later employed.

Predeceased by his parents, Richard is survived by his wife, children, brothers David (Stella), Carlos (Norma), sister, Rachel, and much-loved nieces and nephews. A celebration of his life will be announced on Facebook soon. In lieu of flowers, donations to a scholarship in the name of Richard Chavira will be deeply appreciated, so others may also follow their dreams. Checks payable to: East Los Angeles College Department of Architecture (For: Richard A. Chavira Scholarship) and sent to: East Los Angeles College, Department of Architecture, Attn: Alexis Navarro, 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754-6099.

Anne Larue Friedman

Mount Sinai Mem Parks
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mountsinaiparks.org

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Gloria Griffin

December 16, 1932 - April 3, 2023

Gloria Nickerson Griffin was a woman who will be remembered for her tremendous generosity, giving of herself throughout her life to her family and faith. She was bold, kind, compassionate, and caring. She was a fierce advocate for everything she believed in and all those she loved.

Gloria was born in Buffalo, New York on December 16, 1932 to Lester James Nickerson and Jacqueline Hill Nickerson. Raised in the cold and snow, she arrived in California at the age of 7 and considered it to be the promised land of beautiful weather and boundless opportunities. For her, these culminated in a marriage of 70 years, 8 children, 22 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren and a life of service with much deserved recognition.

Gloria had a strong sense of belonging to the Catholic Church from an early age and practiced the Faith all her life. She entered into the Sacrament of Marriage with the love of her life, Paul Griffin Jr., at 18. Together they welcomed 8 children and raised them with faith as the center of their family life.

Her career spanned a number of disciplines, from her days as an elementary school teacher to interior designer to Senior Vice President and member of the Board of Directors of the family real estate firm, Griffin Homes.

From the time she was a busy young mother to her retirement years, she was a powerhouse of Christian charity. She was involved in organizations large and small, from the Parish level to youth groups to serving on boards and councils at the Archdiocese. Her service was honored with several prestigious awards, including the UCLA Service Award (1984), the Cardinal's Award (1995), and her investment in the Order of Malta (1992) and the Equestrian Order of Saint Gregory (1997). She was deeply involved in pro-life work for more than forty years, serving as President of the Right of Life League of Southern California (1993-1994).

A proud alumna of UCLA, Gloria volunteered for many years in many capacities. She served on the UCLA Alumni Association Board of Directors, Hospital Board of Advisors, Board of Advisors for the College of Letters and Science, Dean's Council for the College of Humanities, and the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. She was an avid football and basketball fan all her life. In her final days, she watched the Bruins compete in the March Madness tournament and issued spirited complaints about the refereeing from her hospital bed.

When people asked for help, either on an organizational or personal level, Gloria never refused. If she was needed, she found the time and made the effort to help. Her combination of energy and competence made her enormously effective at everything she did.

In their retirement, Gloria and Paul moved from North Ridge to Carpinteria, where they attended daily Mass and enjoyed entertaining family members and friends in their home. Wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations and family reunions were held there.

One of her goals later in her life was to reach the date of her 70th wedding anniversary. She was able to celebrate that with Paul and the family on December 16, 2020, which she considered a great blessing from God.

Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will miss her and strive to follow her example of faith, service, and family life.

Ann Julia Borgman Heiney

February 23, 1929 - February 15, 2023

Ann Borgman Heiney was born on February 23, 1929, in Le Sueur MN, to William and Marie Borgman. She grew up in Santa Ana, California, and attended the University of Redlands, where she met her future husband, Donald Heiney. She earned a B.A. in Philosophy from UCLA in 1950.

She married Donald Heiney in 1948 and in 1953 they moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he was a Professor of English. Ann was a partner in her husband's books about literature for students, writing many of the summaries. In 1965, they moved back to California where he was a Professor at UC Irvine, and they settled in Newport Beach. After raising two children, Ann taught preschool for many years. She was known as an enthusiastic traveler, reader, and theatergoer. She lived an active intellectual life and was a supporter of the arts and sciences, particularly at UCI.

She died peacefully after an extended illness on February 15, 2023.

She is survived by two sons, Conrad Heiney and Paul Heiney, and a grandchild, Alex Heiney. Donations in her name can be made to Share Our Selves, of which she was a lifelong supporter.

Robert Edward Hindle

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Robert Edward Hindle, a lifelong resident of Venice and Marina del Rey, who passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on April 10, 2023, after a courageous, but short battle with cancer.

(for full obituary, please go to https://www.legacy.com/link.asp?i=OB51689751)

Eileen Agnes Hoffman

Eileen Agnes Breslin McGinley Hoffman, 88, daughter of George M. Breslin and Agnes G. Scully, born March 23, 1935, in Los Angeles, CA, died March 27, 2023, in Riverside, CA.

She is survived by her four children - Bridget, Erin, Brian and Maureen. She also leaves behind her six grandchildren – Courtney, Cody, Patrick, Kara, Riley and Kathleen and her great-grandchildren – Carter, Braxton, James and Millie Rose.

Eileen, aka "Grandma Reenie", will always be remembered for her love of life, her many adventures around the world, and her true enjoyment for hosting parties for friends and family. She was a devout Catholic and was a schoolteacher with the LAUSD for over 20 years. In her retirement years, she volunteered for many organizations, including UCLA Club of the Desert.

She leaves us to join her husbands, James T. McGinley Jr., Tommy B. Hoffman and her son Kevin McGinley. Eileen is predeceased by her parents, five sisters and one brother. We will always remember Eileen for keeping the laughter alive in us all!

Funeral Services to be held at 11:00 am on May 6, 2023, at St. Thomas Catholic at 3774 Jackson St. Riverside, CA 92503. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Foundation would be appreciated. act.alz.org

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Akes Family Funeral Home, 9695 Magnolia Ave. Riverside, Ca 92503 951-785-4071

Eleanor (Blumenfeld) Horowitz

February 25, 1930 - April 18, 2023

Eleanor "Ellie" (Blumenfeld) Horowitz died peacefully on April 18, 2023, after a courageous battle with melanoma. Born to Edward Alexander Blumenfeld, M.D. and Sonia (Shenker) Blumenfeld in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, she was a graduate of McGill University. Ellie was a Canadian beauty, a fashion model, and a passionate student of fine art. In 1952, when visiting her sister, Myra Lax (deceased), in Los Angeles, Ellie was crowned "Queen for a Day" on the famous radio show. It was her humor and fluency in French that won her the crown.

Hoping to persuade Ellie to stay, her brother-in-law, Aaron Lax M.D. (deceased,) introduced her to the love of her life, Robert Lester Horowitz, M.D. (deceased). Ellie and Bob were married six weeks later, and together they traveled the world. Ellie & Bob's romance lasted nearly 70 years. Ellie was a generous hostess, a master Bridge player, a champion bowler with B'nai B'rith Ladies, a scout leader for her kids, the PTA President, a voracious reader, yoga devotee, lover of theater and movies, and an active member and treasurer of her Hadassah chapter.

Together, Ellie and Bob raised four children, Douglas Mark Horowitz (deceased,) Steven Eric (Melinda) Horowitz, Patricia Kim (Daniel) Toll, and Cindy Helene (Ricky) Mintz. She adored her children, 5 grandchildren (Vanessa, Madeleine, Ellen, Gracie and Noah) and all of her nieces and nephews.

Ellie had a wonderful life. She was constantly optimistic and truly LIVED all of her 93 years. She is our "Queen for a Day," for eternity.

The funeral will be held at Hillside Memorial Park, 10 AM Sunday, April 23.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hadassah. https://www.hadassah.org/donate

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Robert Francis Lass

July 6, 1931 - March 31, 2023

Robert Francis Lass, lovingly known as, "Big Bob", died peacefully on March 31, 2023 from natural causes, surrounded by his family and caregiver Ian. Big Bob was a seventh generation Californian who graduated from Loyola High School (1949) and attended Loyola University. After serving his country in the Korean War, Big Bob returned to Los Angeles and started a long career in the film industry as a negative editor. Bob was a generous parishioner of St. Brendan's. He received a Papal Honor in 2016. For years, Bob volunteered with Meals on Wheels. As a result of all his volunteer efforts in the Los Angeles community, he accepted an invitation to join the Knights of Malta. He truly was a man who lived for others all his life. He married his beloved Teddy in 1953, and they were together for 69 years. They raised 7 children, grandparents to 14 and 5 great-grandchildren. A lifelong sports fan devoted to his Lakers, Dodgers and Trojans, we will always remember him wearing his team jackets and shirts with Teddy by his side. His memory will remind us to get out on the dance floor, ride a perfect wave and linger at a beautiful sunset. Bob's infectious laughter, the twinkle in his eyes and his bear hugs will be missed and forever cherished. A memorial mass will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2:00 P.M. at St. Brendan's Church. Please wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt at Big Bob's request. Reception to follow at Wilshire Country Club. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Homeboy Industries.

Edward Hoyt McLaughlin

August 26, 1929 - February 11, 2023

Edward Hoyt McLaughlin of Santa Ana, California passed away on February 11, 2023. He was 93 years old.

Hoyt, as his family and friends knew him, was born in San Francisco on August 26, 1929 to Olivia Hoyt and Edward Chester McLaughlin. He spent his childhood in San Francisco, Piedmont and Berkeley.

It was at Berkeley High School where he met his future wife Barbara. Both he and Barbara went to UC Berkeley, where he majored in Industrial Engineering.

The newlyweds left the Bay Area and headed to Southern California where Hoyt had a long career in aerospace at Collins Radio, Celesco Industries, and then Brunswick Defense.

In retirement, Hoyt and Barbara enjoyed traveling, often with neighbors who were lifelong friends. They nurtured their avocado and orange trees, which yielded bountiful crops. You would often find Hoyt busy in his garage restoring his Model T. The last iteration of the Model T combined his love of cars with his love of woodworking, as he built a wood paneled truck bed for the vintage Ford.

Hoyt's kindness was unmatched. Those who knew him will certainly miss his talents, quips and company.

Hoyt is survived by his devoted wife of 68 years (Barbara), his siblings (Dennis McLaughlin and Mary Richards), his three children (Cheryl Frizzell, Stephen McLaughlin, and Kathleen Coda), five grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Alden Leigh Milmet

Our beloved Alden leaves behind a world of cousins and friends who adored him and a lineup of witticisms that will make his memory an echo of happiness. His parents, Addie (Agnes) Isabel Conway and Bill (William) Joseph Milmet met in Winnipeg Canada, but represented Scotland, Ireland and Ukraine. Alden's artistic soul and eye for beauty were used in his life and designwork including at Santa Monica City College, but it was his piercing wit that held us captive. The night before he died, he complained to a cousin that, fearing that if he could not figure out his new Apple Watch, he certainly would never figure out how to open the Pearly Gates. She assured him that, for him, they were set to open automatically. The families Conway, Atkins, Devine, Clackston, Deagle, Bertram (Loel,) Young (Weiss,) Greenseid (Crocker, Nelson, McCabe,) Vinetz, Kezlarian, Edesis, Donner and Wilhelm are comforted, knowing that the gates have indeed opened.

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Los Angeles Times

Noemi Valenzuela

May 23, 1919 - April 1, 2023

Noemi Rita Navarro Valenzuela passed away peacefully on April 1, 2023, at the age of 103, in Pasadena, California.

Noemi was born and raised and lived most of her life in El Paso, Texas. She was a beautiful woman with a beautiful soul. She was totally devoted to her family, who were her pride and joy, and she was always happiest when spending time with them. She loved music, especially Frederic Chopin and Perry Como. We will miss her kindness and elegance, her devoutness and generosity, her love, strength, courage and resilience.

Noemi is survived by her daughters Leticia Valenzuela, MD (Marc LaRiviere MD) and Yvonne Garibay, and by her son Angel Carlos Valenzuela, Jr.(Norma). She is also survived by 8 beautiful grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her dear husband, Angel Carlos Valenzuela, and her 7 siblings.

There will be a Memorial Vigil for Noemi at Cabot and Sons Funeral Home in Pasadena, California on April 27, 2023 at 4:30 PM. Funeral Mass and burial will be in El Paso, Texas at a later date.

Eleanor Ursula Yavarone

June 12, 1942 - April 7, 2023

Eleanor Ursula Yavarone, 80, of Pacoima, CA, died Friday afternoon peacefully in her sleep at Silver Light Care, Inc., North Hollywood, CA.

Eleanor was born in Neptune Township, NJ, on June 12, 1942, and resided there until she entered the convent at the Sisters of Mercy in North Plainfield, NJ. She served in this capacity for twenty years. She then moved to California to spend the remainder of her life. She spent several years teaching Religion at Mayfield Senior High School, Pasadena, CA, until she retired at the age of 70.

Eleanor was predeceased by her father, Frank E. Yavarone, Sr., who died in 2001, her mother, Eleanor, who died in 2008, and her brother, Frank E. Yavarone, Jr., who died in 1988. She is survived by her sister, Marie A. Yavarone, of Nashville TN.

A private burial was held on April 21, 2003, at Forest Lawn Memorial Parks and Mortuaries.

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FUMIYE TONI YAMADA

Fumiye Toni Yamada passed away peacefully in the presence of her children and friends at her Kingsley Manor residence in Los Angeles on January 2, 2023.

Beloved mother of Seiko Diane Yamada and Akira Mark Yamada and sister of Judith Keiko Nakanishi and Ben Miyamoto, she is preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Suyenori (Sy) Yamada, father, Masao Miyamoto, mother, Michiko Miyamoto, brother, Michael Miyamoto and nephew, Brent Narasaki.

Fumiye Toni Yamada (Miyamoto) was born on August 18, 1934 in Fresno, California. The oldest of four siblings, she was extremely bright as well as headstrong. At an early age, she made it known that her preference was to be called by her middle name.

Toni's childhood was spent in Selma, CA where her father had built a successful ranching business. When World War II erupted in 1941, the Miyamoto family was sent to the Gila River War Relocation Center in southern Arizona. She spent her formative preteen years there.

After the war, the Miyamoto family returned to California's Central Valley in 1946. Toni attended Dinuba High School and after 2 years of community college, went on to the University of California at Berkeley where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work.

Toni was introduced to Suyenori Yamada by mutual friends and they married on July 15,1961 after a short courtship. Together, they moved to Los Angeles and settled in the city's Crenshaw area. After having two children, they relocated to the Los Feliz neighborhood around 1969. There, Toni and Sy found their community and forged friendships which would endure over time.

Seeking to raise well-rounded children, Toni played an active role in their schooling from early on while also encouraging their participation in the arts and sports. She supported the front office of Sy's internal medicine practice at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center and worked with the Los Angeles County Medical Auxiliary. Toni satisfied her passion for the arts by volunteering for the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena and taking ballet classes as often as she could. And following in the footsteps of her father, she enjoyed following the stock market and personal investing.

The activities that brought Toni the most joy were epicurean. She was happiest in the company of her neighborhood gourmet group which included the Tahans, Mitchells and Daleys. Together, they enjoyed interesting food and wine at each others' homes, local LA restaurants and more far-flung locations. They were perhaps the original foodies.

After Sy's passing in 2013, Toni lived at their Nottingham home for several years but in 2018 moved to Kingsley Manor in Hollywood to receive better support for her advancing dementia. There, Toni was well cared for by experienced nurses and dedicated professional staff until she was transferred to hospice care on December 27, 2022. Her family appreciates the visits and sharing of memories by the close family and beloved friends who visited, called and wrote.

A private memorial service will be held for Fumiye Toni Yamada at Forest Lawn, Glendale on Friday, April 28, 2023. Her ashes will be interred beside those of her husband Suyenori Yamada in the Garden of the Ascension overlooking their beloved Los Feliz neighborhood.

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To sign a guest book
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latimes.com/guestbooks
Los Angeles Times

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Cooler weather returns: A minor disturbance crossing the state will lead to increasing onshore flow today, bringing cooler conditions to the region with pockets of low clouds and fog along the immediate coast. Onshore flow will continue to increase through tonight, with a thicker and more widespread marine layer expected to develop. Monday will turn out even cooler.

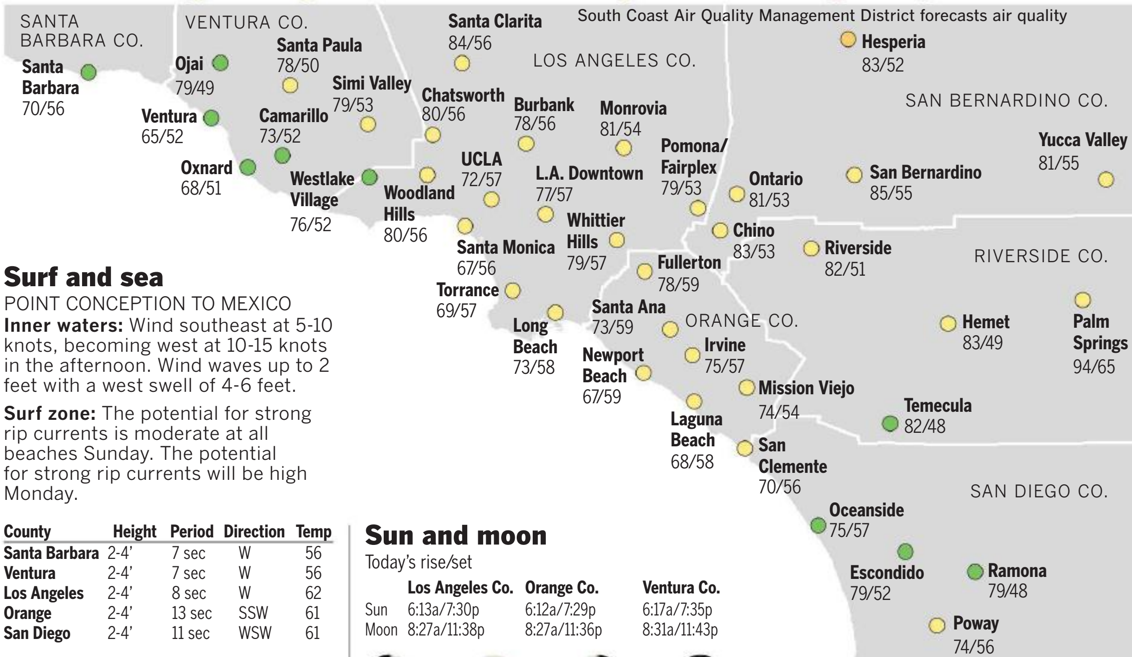
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	77|57 Mostly sunny		80|57 Mostly sunny		67|56 Sun and clouds		63|35 Mostly sunny		94|65 Mostly sunny; hot	
Monday	Clearing	72/55	Sun	77/56	Clouds clear	65/56	Mostly sunny	65/38	Mostly sunny	92/63
Tuesday	Sunny	72/55	Clearing	78/53	Clearing	65/55	Mostly sunny	60/38	Sunny	94/70
Wednesday	Mostly sunny	77/55	Mostly sunny	84/57	Mostly sunny	65/55	Mostly sunny	60/33	Sunny; hot	97/70
Thursday	Partly sunny	77/56	Clouds, sun	81/56	Clouds, sun	66/55	Mostly sunny	66/36	Hot	100/68

Air quality

● Good ● Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind southeast at 5-10 knots, becoming west at 10-15 knots in the afternoon. Wind waves up to 2 feet with a west swell of 4-6 feet.

Surf zone: The potential for strong rip currents is moderate at all beaches Sunday. The potential for strong rip currents will be high Monday.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	2-4'	7 sec	W	56
Ventura	2-4'	7 sec	W	56
Los Angeles	2-4'	8 sec	W	62
Orange	2-4'	13 sec	SSW	61
San Diego	2-4'	11 sec	WSW	61

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	1:08p	3.2 Hi	6:26a	-0.4 Lo
	11:37p	5.3 Hi	5:11p	2.4 Lo
Mon.	2:43p	2.9 Hi	7:22a	0.0 Lo
	------	Hi	5:29p	2.8 Lo

UV index

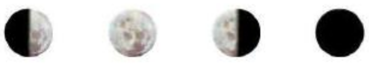
Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 25	Phoenix, 25
Los Angeles, 25	San Francisco, 25

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:13a/7:30p	6:12a/7:29p	6:17a/7:35p
Moon	8:27a/11:38p	8:27a/11:36p	8:31a/11:43p



Almanac

Saturday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	86/62	84/57	71/57
Normal high/low	73/55	75/54	68/49
High/low a year ago	65/54	68/55	59/51
Record high/date	99/1910	91/2017	83/1987
Record low/date	44/1882	46/2010	37/1970

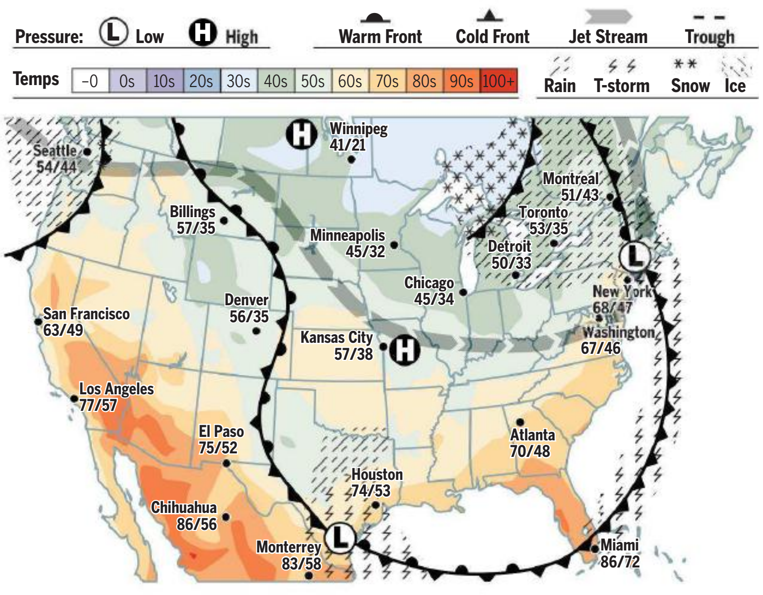
Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	27.48	20.53	25.42
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.16	6.46	11.33
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	13.58	11.20	15.43
Humidity (high/low)	62/23	74/23	100/60

California cities

City	Saturday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Monday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	90	59	--	78	56	73	55
Avalon/Catalina	80	69	--	69	55	65	54
Bakersfield	82	56	--	80	58	79	53
Barstow	87	56	--	89	60	89	57
Big Bear Lake	65	35	--	63	35	65	38
Bishop	78	47	--	80	44	83	44
Burbank	87	60	--	78	56	73	56
Camarillo	77	53	--	73	52	67	52
Chatsworth	90	58	--	80	56	75	54
Chino	88	54	--	83	53	76	52
Compton	82	55	--	76	57	71	58
Dana Point	74	54	--	68	57	66	57
Death Valley	97	79	--	97	80	97	80
Del Mar	73	56	--	65	58	63	57
Escondido	90	55	--	79	52	73	54
Eureka	55	49	--	54	44	55	43
Fallbrook	84	57	--	77	52	71	52
Fresno	84	57	--	82	54	82	52
Fullerton	84	57	--	78	59	73	58
Hemet	88	50	--	83	49	78	51
Hesperia	xx	xx	xx	83	52	83	50
Huntington Beach	76	55	--	67	58	65	58
Idyllwild	75	42	--	68	49	70	52
Irvine	85	57	--	75	57	69	56
L.A. D'ntown/USC	86	62	--	77	57	72	55
L.A. Int'l. Airport	81	57	--	69	57	67	58
Laguna Beach	78	50	--	68	58	64	58
Lancaster	85	48	--	84	59	83	53
Long Beach	80	57	--	73	58	69	57
Mammoth Lakes	54	34	--	61	34	65	34
Mission Viejo	86	53	--	74	54	69	53
Monrovia	86	54	--	81	54	76	54
Monterey	59	47	--	62	48	60	46
Mt. Wilson	72	57	--	54	52	56	53
Needles	89	68	--	95	69	94	68
Newport Beach	73	59	--	67	59	64	59
Northridge	90	58	--	81	56	75	54
Oakland	68	50	--	65	48	63	46
Oceanside	77	47	--	75	57	69	55
Ojai	87	49	--	79	49	77	49
Ontario	89	58	--	81	53	75	52
Palm Springs	99	68	--	94	65	92	63
Pasadena	89	60	--	79	55	74	54
Paso Robles	82	43	--	80	44	81	39
Redding	85	62	--	79	51	77	57
Riverside	88	48	--	82	51	77	49
Sacramento	83	59	--	79	50	76	48
San Bernardino	90	55	--	85	55	79	54
San Diego	81	56	--	69	60	65	58
San Francisco	69	51	--	63	49	63	49
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	80	56	75	55
San Jose	78	54	--	69	47	69	46
San Luis Obispo	70	52	--	70	50	71	47
Santa Ana	80	60	--	73	59	69	59
Santa Barbara	77	52	--	70	56	68	50
Santa Clarita	87	55	--	84	56	79	54
Santa Monica Pier	78	56	--	67	56	65	56
Santa Paula	86	56	--	78	50	74	49
Santa Rosa	82	50	--	75	44	75	43
Simi Valley	88	66	--	79	53	73	53
Tahoe Valley	57	29	--	60	34	59	30
Temecula	87	52	--	82	48	75	50
Thousand Oaks	85	65	--	76	52	70	52
Torrance	84	55	--	69	57	67	57
UCLA	81	61	--	72	57	67	57
Van Nuys	91	64	--	81	58	76	58
Ventura	71	57	--	65	52	62	52
Whittier Hills	88	58	--	79	57	74	55
Woodland Hills	92	52	--	80	56	74	55
Wrightwood	66	46	--	65	49	68	49
Yorba Linda	88	56	--	79	55	73	53
Yosemite Valley	73	45	--	70	42	72	42

Today in North America

Severe storms in South Texas: A disturbance crossing through the southern Plains could bring severe thunderstorms to South Texas with the potential for large hail and damaging wind. In the Northeast, a cold front will bring rain and cooler conditions.



U.S. cities

SATURDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 99 in Palm Springs, Calif. **Low** 0 in Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.

City	Saturday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	68	53	.23	58	41	R
Albuquerque	69	46	--	68	48	Cy
Anchorage	44	35	--	43	22	Pc
Aspen	38	24	.23	49	31	Cy
Atlanta	71	58	.03	70	48	Pc
Austin	78	49	--	61	51	R
Baltimore	77	64	.84	65	43	Pc
Boise	59	40	--	61	43	Ts
Boston	50	46	Tr	51	46	R
Buffalo	68	52	.46	48	38	Pc
Burlington, Vt.	66	50	--	51	44	R
Charleston, S.C.	86	65	.70	79	56	Su
Charlotte	74	58	.33	72	48	Su
Chicago	47	41	.05	45	34	Cy
Cincinnati	58	43	.66	50	33	Pc
Cleveland	58	46	.72	50	37	Pc
Columbia, S.C.	82	62	--	77	55	Pc
Columbus	61	45	.75	50	35	Cy
Dallas/Ft.Worth	73	54	--	57	48	R
Denver	40	24	.12	56	35	Pc
Detroit	54	45	.07	50	33	Cy
El Paso	87	53	--	75	52	Pc
Eugene	72	51	--	56	44	Cy
Fort Myers	88	70	--	90	70	Su
Hartford	63	48	.01	61	45	R
Honolulu	86	74	.03	85	73	Pc
Houston	77	56	--	74	53	Ts
Indianapolis	54	41	.01	48	31	Cy
Jacksonville, Fla.	88	68	Tr	79	57	Su
Kansas City	48	33	--	57	38	Su
Knoxville	67	51	.76	61	39	Su
Las Vegas	82	66	--	86	64	Su
Louisville	63	47	.47	56	37	Pc
Medford	75	47	.04	70	44	Pc
Memphis	68	43	--	60	42	Cy
Miami	89	72	.06	86	72	Ts
Milwaukee	47	38	.12	44	34	Cy
Minneapolis	37	31	Tr	45	32	Pc
Nashville	68	48	.45	60	37	Su
New Orleans	79	65	--	77	62	Cy
New York	67	51	.04	68	47	Pc
Norfolk	80	64	.32	73	55	Pc
Oklahoma City	53	46	.02	64	43	Cy
Omaha	46	32	Tr	54	36	Su
Orlando	89	69	--	85	66	Pc
Philadelphia	78	51	.42	68	46	Pc
Phoenix	94	62	--	95	68	Su
Pittsburgh	57	52	.38	48	36	Cy
Portland, Ore.	66	49	.04	58	47	Sh
Providence	54	45	--	56	46	R
Raleigh/Durham	76	63	1.33	71	49	Pc
Reno	70	43	--	71	42	Pc
Richmond	74	60	.32	72	45	Pc
St. Louis	48	41	--	57	36	Pc
Salt Lake City	52	43	.06	61	45	Pc
Seattle	63	45	Tr	54	44	Sh
Tampa	85	71	--	89	69	Su
Tucson	89	54	--	92	63	Su
Tulsa	57	44	--	65	40	Cy
Washington, D.C.	74	63	.64	67	46	Pc
Wichita	56	38	--	63	39	Pc

World

City	Saturday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	87	73	--	88	73	Pc
Amsterdam	56	41	.63	58	45	R
Athens	72	55	.18	69	52	Su
Bangkok	100	86	--	100	84	Su
Barcelona	66	55	--	68	54	Pc
Berlin	72	43	--	65	50	Sh
Cabo San Lucas	93	68	--	90	65	Su
Cairo	84	61	--	83	62	Cy
Dubai	90	73	--	92	74	Su
Dublin	51	46	.41	54	41	Sh
Havana	88	69	--	87	68	Pc
Ho Chi Minh City	97	78	--	98	80	Su
Hong Kong	82	77	.52	84	75	Ts
Istanbul	66	52	--	61	47	Cy
Jerusalem	72	49	--	74	54	Cy
Johannesburg	74	53	--	77	56	Su
Kuala Lumpur	90	77	.40	90	76	R
Lima	81	70	--	80	71	Pc
London	56	39	.08	58	44	R
Madrid	72	55	.40	76	49	Su
Mecca	104	72	--	103	81	Su
Mexico City	81	56	.03	80	55	Cy
Montreal	66	45	.08	51	43	R
Moscow	59	41	--	66	46	Pc
Mumbai	88	78	--	90	79	Hz
New Delhi	93	75	.23	93	70	Pc
Paris	63	43	.13	59	45	R
Prague	68	43	--	61	46	Ts
Rome	70	50	--	69	57	Cy
Seoul	72	49	--	73	52	Pc
Singapore	88	80	.01	89	78	Ts
Taipei City	79	68	--	81	69	Sh
Tokyo	64	50	--	63	52	Hz
Vancouver	52	45	.06	53	43	Cy
Vienna	70	41	--	70	50	Ts

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Saturday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

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Bons mots, Bordeaux and books — always books

[**Morrison,** from B1]

ness that he deployed on the chessboard and at the poker table as well as in the boardroom.

Before Donald Trump's exultingly vicious personality corrupted the cheerier idea of "authenticity" in politics, Dick as a politician remained an amateur, maybe even a bit of a naif, sometimes impatient with the horizontal mechanics of democracy versus the vertical authority of the corporate world.

But the public came to know and like his earnestness, his goofiness.

He was the guy who'd clap a wacky hat on his head for the cameras. He bristled at news coverage he didn't like — and I certainly got many earfuls from him about that — but he could laugh at himself. It came naturally, as it does to all authentic leaders (not you, Donald Trump).

He was an original "as is" guy. Unless someone put him to rights, he might show up for a speech with his shirttail out, or wearing his lunch on his tie.

Dick was a surprising athlete — skier, bicyclist and ice skater. When the renowned L.A. photographer Gary Leonard snapped a picture of Dick falling on his ass on the holiday ice rink at Pershing Square, Dick bought copies. He blurted out jokes — some good, some groaners, a few outright tone-deaf and offensive, born of the age and station that created him. He beta-tested some on his daughter, Trish Riordan Torrey.

"Do you think I can tell that joke?" he'd ask. And she'd say, "Dad, if you're asking me, you can't." Of course, he didn't always ask.

He was, as The Times wrote after he was elected in 1993, a study in contradictions. We in the Riordan book group saw all of this up close.

Our group began not long after I visited Riordan's astounding home library — 40,000 books, most of them bulk-bought when Immaculate Heart College closed in the 1980s and augmented by the hundreds by Dick's book-buying fervor.

It's a dream library, with upper and lower tiers and a cine-dramatic circular staircase to get there. There were books in the basement, the bathrooms, everywhere. On his nightstand the day I asked to see it: "The White Nile" by Alan Moorehead, a book about educational policies, another on great speeches of history and an amusing bonne bouche by G.K. Chesterton. He was that kind of reader.

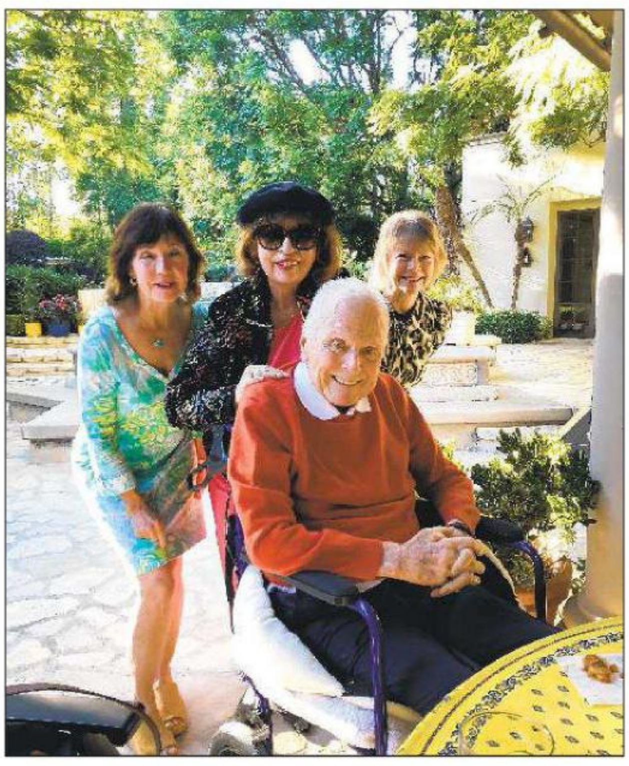
Our original members were Dick, his law colleague and friend Bruce Merritt, the fabled writer Ray Bradbury and me.

We soon added others, and in time, the core group filled 10 or a dozen or 14 chairs at his dining room table every month. Some members eventually moved away, like Alan and Arlene Alda — the actor and his writer wife — and scholar James Q. Wilson and his wife, Roberta, as new ones arrived.

My friends Michael and Pat York, the actor and the photographer, joined us. The state historian Kevin Starr and his wife, Sheila; my L.A. Times colleague Martha Groves; fellow columnist James Flanigan and his wife, Patricia. KNBC-TV standouts Kelly Lange and Fritz Coleman — the latter a recent member whose comedy performances Dick enjoyed. Dick's nephew Mike Riordan and wife Nancy. A number of prominent L.A. philanthropists.

Merritt, a former federal prosecutor, now retired from the law, and his wife, Valerie, are still regulars. Dick's wonderful wife, Elizabeth, sat on his right. I was the sergeant at arms, at Dick's left, and, with stern taps on a wineglass, enforced the "one conversation" rule, lest the discussion fracture.

Our book group was together for so long that differences of opinion could happen. Books do that, are supposed to do that: a napkin thrown down on the table as a chair was shoved back, a prelude to walking out. But we always, always, bore respect and affection for one another.



ELIZABETH RIORDAN

BOOK CLUB members, from left, Donna Foote, Patt Morrison, Richard J. Riordan and Martha Groves.

At that first meeting in January 1995, we four had read "Einstein's Dreams," and we were puzzled by bits of it. Other book groups might keep on puzzling, but Dick, the mayor of L.A., got the author, Alan Lightman, on the speakerphone to grill him.

L.A. had many other multimillionaires but only one mayor. Even as ex-mayor, it tickled Dick that he could wheedle an author into joining us. Several of us thought that was a lousy idea. It inhibited conversation about a bad book. That happened once, when we all disliked the book, and there we sat, with the famous author expecting accolades that didn't come.

Yet once, Sidney Poitier joined us to talk about his autobiography and was nothing less than a delight. We read "Shopgirl" with Steve Martin there, and after most people had drifted on home, Mr. M and I wound up on the Riordan kitchen floor, playing with the dogs.

We read big books, serious books: "Black Lamb and Grey Falcon," about the history of the Balkans. We revisited Dickens and Fitzgerald, Philip Roth, Graham Greene — another Riordan favorite — and, yes, Proust. When we read a book about Eisenhower as supreme commander in World War II, Dick unearthed a bottle of 1945 port.

The day in 1989 that one of our members, Peter Allen, met Dick, the two began their friendship with a chess game — and the friendship and chess never stopped. Dick, Peter marveled, was "fully *alive*." Dick took ski and bicycling holidays at Peter's place in Sun Valley, Idaho, where his sleep-apnea snoring, thundering from the living-room sofa, once woke up Peter's mother.

From his deep wine collection, Dick gave Peter a bottle of 1976 Chateau Lafite Rothschild.

"Peter," he said, "I am too cheap to drink this expensive wine, and I am too proud to sell it, so I would rather give it to you!" Alas, it turned out to be undrinkable, but the kindness, and the memory of it, lasted Peter to this day.

Writer Donna Foote is another of our members. A few years back, her friend's father was dying with one wish: Dick had been his best friend in high school, and he wanted to talk again to the man he'd lost touch with. Dick "dropped everything, called the dying man and stayed on the phone reminiscing as if not a day had passed since they had last spoken," Foote recalled. "His friend died shortly after that, a happy man."

Merritt, from our original foursome, bonded with Dick over their shared love of Greene and Waugh. Merritt was surprised to find such a bookish fellow in a corporate lawyer's suit — and such a "natural schmoozer" too.

"Long before he got involved in politics, I met him for lunch one day at the Polo Lounge," Merritt said. "He had reserved a table on the patio at the far end of the restaurant. It took us almost 20 minutes to walk from the entrance of the restaurant to the patio, because he knew somebody at almost every table we passed and had to stop to talk with them."

His birthday parties were sprawling, genial affairs, with kids, dogs, food, movies. His nephew Mike remembers Dick's favorite rejoinders, stitched on caps Dick gave to his guests: "What's your point?" and "I couldn't agree with you more." I remember another favorite: "I was young! I needed the money!"

He didn't suffer fools gladly, Mike remembered last week, but "he was interested in pretty much everyone's story."

We teased Dick about the fact that he, a devoted capitalist, shared a birthday with international celebrations of labor movements and a Communist holiday — and he might answer, "What's your point?"

Some of the obituaries noted that one of Dick's daughters, Carol, died at 18 of an eating disorder, and his son, Billy, died at 21 in a scuba accident. But there was an earlier generation of tragedy.

Yes, he became rich, and yes, he was born at the cusp of the Depression into a comfortably prosperous family, the youngest of eight kids.

But money, as he learned over and over, could not brick him off from tragedy. One of his sisters died at age 5 from a brain tumor. Another sister burned to death in a fire. A brother died in a mudslide on L.A.'s Westside in 1969.

When he said "I'm a rescuer," he meant people, and institutions. Ten years ago, terribly sick in the intensive care unit with serious flu, he told his daughter Trish that the work that had made him happiest was his philanthropy.

His rescue dogs were his delight, and they were with him when he died. Much more than earlier mayors, he paid attention to the city's animal services and appointed his daughter Kathy to the commission responsible for their care, where she served admirably, I think, holding to account practices that had never been questioned before.

Kathy is even more tenderhearted about animals than her dad. Once, when Dick's third wife, the late children's activist Nancy Daly Riordan, bought a crocodile handbag, Kathy looked stricken.

"Kathy, Kathy," her dad soothed her. "That crocodile had a cat in its mouth."

His campaign slogan in that first election was "Tough enough to turn L.A. around." Knowing him as I came to, I might have rewritten it to "different enough," but hey, I'm no politician, either.

Los Angeles Times

SPORTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

Moore's heroics cap his surreal hockey journey

HELENE ELLIOTT

Trevor Moore had lived this moment in his head a million times, picturing himself at the center of a sweaty, smiling mob on the ice, embraced by his teammates after he scored a dramatic, game-winning goal.

Experiencing his dream Friday at Crypto.com Arena, where the Thousand Oaks native had grown up watching Kings games and adopted charismatic Ziggy Palffy as a favorite, exceeded anything Moore had dared to imagine.

Moore one-timed a pass from Gabe Vilardi off the post and behind Edmonton goaltender Stuart Skinner for a power-play goal 3 minutes, 24 seconds into overtime, giving the Kings a 3-2 victory and a 2-1 lead in a series that will resume Sunday on their home ice. For Moore, the first California-born player to score a postseason overtime goal for a California team, the moment was especially sweet because he could look up and see his parents, Dave and Sharon, Kings season-ticket holders who had transported him thousands of miles to launch his journey from squirt level with the L.A. Selects to the NHL.

"You name a rink, my parents drove me there, for sure," said Moore, whose Montreal-born grandfather got him started in hockey.

Many of his friends were there too. And throughout the wildly celebrating crowd were kids — some of them around the age he was when he became entranced with the game — who might be inspired to become part of a future in which it's no longer rare to find NHL players from Southern California.

The moment was surreal. Sublime. Better than he could have predicted.

"Much better for sure. Didn't know what to do afterward," Moore said Saturday, after the Kings held a lightly attended practice in El Segundo. "Time just stopped. It just

[See **Elliott,** D8]

NHL PLAYOFFS
FIRST ROUND

GAME 4

Kings vs. Edmonton

AT CRYPTO.COM ARENA
Tonight, 6
TV: BSW, TBS

ERIN HOOLEY Associated Press

JAMES OUTMAN, right, low-fives third base coach Dino Ebel after hitting his second homer of the game.

Muncy, Outman say twice is nice

Sluggers each hit two home runs as Dodgers get contributions up and down the lineup.

DODGERS 9
CHICAGO CUBS 4

By Jack Harris

CHICAGO — Max Muncy homered twice, tying him for the major league lead with 10 on the season.

James Outman added his own pair of bombs, breaking a franchise rookie record with seven before the start of May.

As has often been the case for the homer-happy Dodgers, it was the long ball that led them to a 9-4 victory Saturday over the Chicago Cubs, adding four to their National League-leading total 40 over the season's first month.

This time, however, home runs weren't the only source of scoring from their feast-or-famine lineup.

This time, the Dodgers landed a couple of early jabs before their big-fly knockout punch.

"We scored on the long ball," said Outman, who was in the middle of it all with a career-high four hits and four RBIs. "[But we were also] scoring on just getting guys on, moving them over and getting them in."

It was the type of performance the Dodgers (11-11) had been lacking during their up-and-down start to the season, a potentially promising blueprint for what manager Dave Roberts acknowledged had been an "inconsistent" offense.

"When we're good, we're really good," Roberts said before the game. "When we're not, there's a lot of quick innings."

Saturday was something

[See **Dodgers,** D7]

KANSAS CITY 11
ANGELS 8

Renfroe's big night wasted

Hunter Renfroe hits two home runs, but the Royals score five runs in the ninth inning to rally. **D7**

NFL insiders predict the draft

Sam Farmer checks in with beat writers around the league for their insights and prognostications. **D4**

Angel City star changing game

Alyssa Thompson and other teens are helping to adjust development norms for U.S. women's soccer players. **D8**

NBA PLAYOFFS :: FIRST ROUND

LAKERS 111, MEMPHIS 101

LAKERS LEAD SERIES 2-1 | **GAME 4:** MONDAY AT LAKERS, 7 P.M., TNT, SPECSN

Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

FORWARD ANTHONY DAVIS, who finished with 31 points and 17 rebounds, drives to the basket against Grizzlies forward Jaren Jackson Jr. in the third quarter. The Lakers built a big lead and held off Memphis.

GETTING PROPER CROWDSOURCING

Lakers give fans what they've been waiting for in win

By Dan Woike

First it was the Lakers. Then it was a returning Ja Morant. And in between, it was a defense-first playoff game, one Lakers fans have been waiting nearly a decade to witness.

With a full home crowd watching a playoff game for the first time since 2013, the Lakers delivered a massive blow early and then held off one of the NBA's biggest young stars in a 111-101 win Saturday at Crypto.com Arena.

The Lakers lead the series with Memphis 2-1.

Anthony Davis scored 31 and LeBron James added 25, the two playing in front of a sellout crowd after the pandemic forced the team to play the 2020 postseason in Orlando and the 2021 first-round matchup with Phoenix in front of limited fans.

With the combined energy from a poor start in Game 2 and a home crowd Saturday, the Lakers authored one of the most dominant quarters in NBA history to build too steep of a hill for the Grizzlies to climb.

Davis also grabbed 17 rebounds, with D'Angelo Russell (17), Rui Hachimura (16) and Austin Reaves (13) also scoring in double figures.

After missing Game 2 with a hand injury, Morant started and scored 45 points, including six threes.

Desmond Bane scored 18 and the Lakers held Jaren Jackson Jr. to 13, aided by foul trouble that disrupted his rhythm.

In so many ways, Game 2 couldn't have started worse for the Lakers.

The rims seemed to shrink with ev-

[See **Lakers,** D3]

RUI HACHIMURA smiles after scoring in the first quarter. The Lakers led 35-9 after one quarter.

PHOENIX 112, CLIPPERS 100

PHOENIX LEADS SERIES 3-1 | **GAME 5:** TUESDAY AT PHOENIX, 7 P.M., BSSC, TNT

Walls closing in on Clippers

They fail to keep up with Suns, who can end it Tuesday

By Andrew Greif

The Clippers dreamed of a parade in June, their pair of All-Stars leading the franchise to a place it had never been.

They are now one loss from a first-round exit in April, pulled closer to the brink Saturday in part through an all-too-familiar scene: Kawhi Leonard and Paul George injured and watching in street clothes.

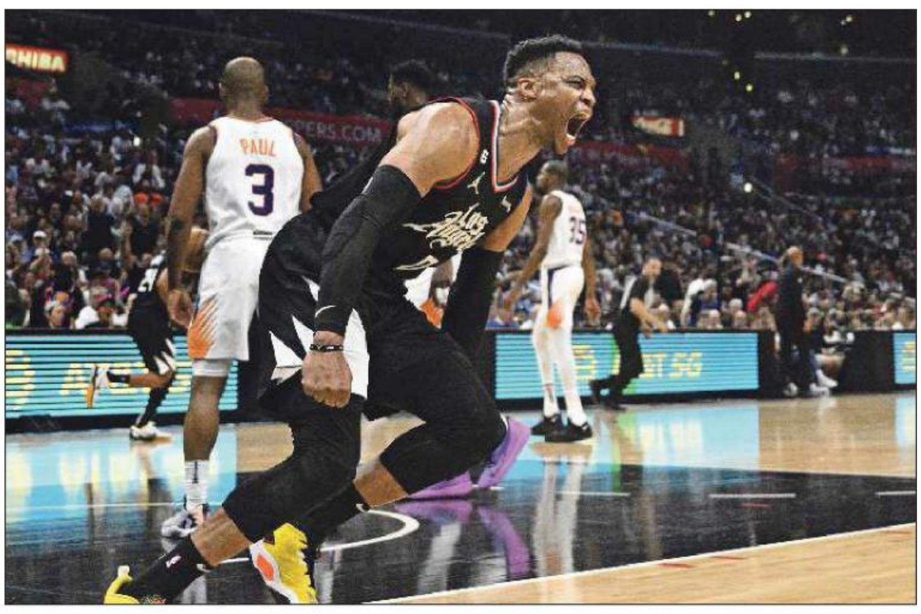
The Clippers have not lost their resolve, players and coach Tyronn Lue echoed. But after a 112-100 defeat at Crypto.com Arena, they have lost three consecutive games to trail 3-1 in the best-of-seven series.

They have lost their two best defenders and offensive creators, with no timetable for either's return, the Clippers offering no other update than Leonard and George remain "day to day."

At this point, so is the Clippers' season.

"For us to get over the hump right now we almost have to do a lot, we have to almost play a perfect game,"

[See **Clippers,** D3]

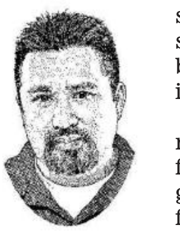


GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

THE CLIPPERS' Russell Westbrook is fired up after dunking for two of his 37 points during a Game 4 loss that pushed L.A. to the brink of elimination.

A revival for Westbrook

DYLAN HERNÁNDEZ



His play was striking. Even more so was how he presented himself after the Clippers' 112-100 loss to the Phoenix Suns on Saturday.

Russell Westbrook was calm. He was philosophical. He was everything he wasn't with the Lakers.

Now on his fifth NBA stop, the 34-year-old Westbrook has found an unlikely late-career calling as the leader of an overmatched team making its final stand.

With Kawhi Leonard and Paul George sidelined, the Clippers are circling the same drain they did last year and the year before that, but Westbrook isn't panicking.

They are within a loss of playoff elimination, their deficit in this Western Conference first-round series now three games to one, but Westbrook is more focused on details than he is of the broad-picture disaster in process.

The player most emblematic of the Lakers' early-season dysfunction, West-

[See **Hernández,** D3]

PRO CALENDAR

	SUN 23	MON 24	TUE 25	WED 26	THU 27
DODGERS	at Chicago Cubs 11:15 a.m. SNLA		at Pittsburgh 3:30 SNLA	at Pittsburgh 3:30 SNLA	at Pittsburgh 9:35 a.m. SNLA
ANGELS	KANSAS CITY 1 BSW	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW, FS1	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW	OAKLAND 1 BSW
LAKERS		MEMPHIS* 7 SpecSN, TNT		at Memphis* 4:30 SpecSN, TNT	
CLIPPERS			at Phoenix* 7 BSSC, TNT		PHOENIX* (if necessary) TBD
KINGS	EDMONTON* 6 BSW, TBS		at Edmonton* 6:30 ESPN		
GALAXY	APRIL 29: AT ORLANDO, 4:30, APPLE TV				
LAFC				at Phila.** 6	
ANGEL CITY	SAN DIEGO 5 Paramount+				

Shade denotes home game. *Playoffs **CONCACAF Champions League

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
Noon	NASCAR, Cup Series, Geico 500	**TV:** 11
BASEBALL		
11:15 a.m.	Dodgers at Chicago Cubs	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
10:30 a.m.	Houston at Atlanta	**TV:** MLB
1 p.m.	Kansas City at Angels	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830, 1220
1:30 p.m.	St. Louis at Seattle (joined in progress)	**TV:** MLB
4 p.m.	New York Mets at San Francisco	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
BASKETBALL: NBA PLAYOFFS, FIRST ROUND		
10 a.m.	Cleveland at New York, Game 4	**TV:** 7
12:30 p.m.	Sacramento at Golden State, Game 4	**TV:** 7
4 p.m.	Boston at Atlanta, Game 4	**TV:** TNT
6:30 p.m.	Denver at Minnesota, Game 4	**TV:** TNT
BOWLING		
9 a.m.	PBA, WSOB XIV World Championship, finals	**TV:** 11
COLLEGE BASEBALL		
9 a.m.	Army at Navy	**TV:** CBSSN
9 a.m.	Purdue at Maryland	**TV:** ESPNU
10 a.m.	Vanderbilt at Tennessee	**TV:** ESPN2
11 a.m.	Minnesota at Illinois	**TV:** Big Ten
Noon	Southern Illinois at Indiana State	**TV:** ESPNU
4 p.m.	UCLA at USC	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
COLLEGE GOLF		
5 a.m.	SEC championship	**TV:** SEC
COLLEGE LACROSSE		
9 a.m.	Women, ACC tournament, Pittsburgh at Virginia Tech	**TV:** ACC
11 a.m.	Women, ACC tournament, Duke at Louisville	**TV:** ACC
COLLEGE SOFTBALL		
9 a.m.	Northwestern at Michigan	**TV:** Big Ten
9:30 a.m.	Auburn at Alabama	**TV:** ESPN
Noon	Utah at Washington	**TV:** Pac-12
1 p.m.	Louisville at Virginia	**TV:** ACC
2 p.m.	Arizona State at UCLA	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
4 p.m.	Florida at Tennessee	**TV:** SEC
COLLEGE TENNIS		
11 a.m.	Women, SEC championships	**TV:** SEC
1:30 p.m.	Men, SEC championships	**TV:** SEC
CYCLING		
7 a.m.	UCI Tour, Liege to Bastogne to Liege	**TV:** CNBC
GOLF		
10 a.m.	LIV Tour, Adelaide, Australia, final round	**TV:** 5
10 a.m.	Zurich Classic of New Orleans, final round	**TV:** Golf
Noon	Zurich Classic of New Orleans, final round	**TV:** 2
1 p.m.	LPGA, The Chevron Championship, final round	**TV:** 4
1 p.m.	Champions Tour, Invited Celebrity Classic	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY		
4 a.m.	IIHF U-18 world championship, Slovakia vs. Canada	**TV:** NHL
10 a.m.	NHL playoffs, Carolina at New York Islanders, Game 4	**TV:** TNT
10 a.m.	IIHF U-18 world championship, U.S. vs. Finland	**TV:** NHL
12:30 p.m.	NHL playoffs, Boston at Florida, Game 4	**TV:** TNT
3:30 p.m.	NHL playoffs, Dallas at Minnesota, Game 4	**TV:** TBS
6 p.m.	NHL playoffs, Edmonton at Kings, Game 4	**TV:** BSW, TBS **R:** iHeart
HORSE RACING		
Noon	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** BSSC
PRO FOOTBALL		
10 a.m.	USFL, New Jersey vs. Pittsburgh at Canton, Ohio	**TV:** 4
Noon	XFL, Houston at Arlington	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
4 p.m.	USFL, Michigan vs. Philadelphia at Canton, Ohio	**TV:** FS1
4 p.m.	XFL, Vegas at Seattle	**TV:** ESPN2
RUGBY		
11:30 a.m.	MLR, Houston at New York	**TV:** FS1
SOCCER		
5 a.m.	Spain, Valencia at Elche	**TV:** ESPND
6 a.m.	England, Tottenham Hotspur at Newcastle	**TV:** USA, KVEA
6 a.m.	France, Clermont at Nice	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
7 a.m.	Spain, Atletico Madrid at Barcelona	**TV:** ESPND
8 a.m.	France, Rennes at Montpellier	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
9:15 a.m.	Spain, Getafe at Mallorca	**TV:** ESPND
10 a.m.	Portugal, Estoril at Benfica	**TV:** GOLTV
10:30 a.m.	Mexico, Juarez at Toluca	**TV:** KMEX, TUDN
Noon	France, Marseille at Lyon	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
1:30 p.m.	Ecuador, Cuenca at Barcelona	**TV:** GOLTV
1:30 p.m.	MLS, Chicago at Atlanta	**TV:** FS1, FOXD
4 p.m.	Ecuador, Emelec at Mushuc Runa	**TV:** GOLTV
5 p.m.	NWSL, San Diego at Angel City FC	**TV:** Paramount+ **R:** 1330
6 p.m.	Mexico, Queretaro at Santos Laguna	**TV:** FOXD
TENNIS		
4 a.m.	ATP Barcelona, Munich and Banja Luka tournaments; WTA Stuttgart tournament, finals	**TV:** Tennis

NBA PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

76ers finish sweep of Nets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANK FRANKLIN II Associated Press

JAMES HARDEN dives on the floor as he battles with Spencer Dinwiddie for control of the ball.

Tobias Harris had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and the Philadelphia 76ers overcame the absence of Joel Embiid to beat the host Brooklyn Nets 96-88 on Saturday, completing a sweep that made them the first team to reach the second round of the playoffs.

James Harden added 17 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds for the third-seeded 76ers, who will wait for the winner of the series between the Boston Celtics and Atlanta Hawks. The defending Eastern Conference champion Celtics have a 2-1 lead.

The 76ers hope Embiid will be recovered from his sprained right knee in time for the start of the next series; the MVP finalist and two-time NBA scoring champion was ruled out Friday and the 76ers struggled to score without him.

So they turned to their defense, and ended up outscoring the Nets 21-4 during a stretch of more than eight minutes in the third quarter.

Paul Reed added 10 points and 15 rebounds after replacing Embiid in the starting lineup.

"It starts with Joel," said guard Tyrese Maxey, who had 16 points. "He's the leader of this team and for him, he takes the guys before the game and he told us good luck and we appreciate him for that. And we need him to get healthy."

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 20 points and Nic Claxton had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who were swept for the second consecutive year and have lost 10 postseason games in a row. They went 0-8 this season against the 76ers.

By sweeping a seven-game series for the first time since beating Milwaukee in 1985, the 76ers ensured that Embiid will have at least a week to recover before they play again.

"Obviously, today was big for us so we can get Big Fella healthy," Harden said. "That's priority No. 1."

at Miami 121, Milwaukee 99: Jimmy Butler scored 30 points before leaving with back soreness after a hard fall, and the eighth-seeded Miami Heat beat the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks for a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

Duncan Robinson scored 20 points on his 29th birthday for Miami, and Kyle Lowry scored 15 for the Heat.

The Bucks were without Giannis Antetokounmpo for a second consecutive game because of a bruised lower back. Khris Middleton scored 23 points and Jrue Holiday added 19 for Milwaukee.

Game 4 is in Miami on Monday night.

Heat guard Victor Oladipo was helped off the court late in the fourth quarter after he appeared to hurt his left knee.

With the win, the Heat are halfway to what would be a stunner — a No. 8 seed over a No. 1 seed, something that's happened five times since the NBA went to the 16-team playoff format in 1984.

Those who pulled it off: Denver over Seattle 3-2 in 1994, New York over Miami 3-2 in 1999, Golden State over Dallas 4-2 in 2007, Memphis over San Antonio 4-2 in 2011 and Philadelphia over Chicago 4-2 in 2012.

76ers 96, Nets 88

PHILADELPHIA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
T.Harris	37	11-19	1-1	2-12	1	2	25
Tucker	29	1-6	0-0	1-4	1	4	3
Reed	31	5-10	0-0	8-15	2	3	10
Harden	40	4-18	7-8	0-8	11	3	17
Maxey	39	6-20	3-3	2-8	1	3	16
Melton	27	5-11	2-2	2-2	2	1	15
McDaniels	14	2-2	0-0	0-2	0	0	4
Niang	9	2-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	4
Harrell	4	0-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Milton	4	0-1	2-2	0-2	0	3	2
Totals		36-91	15-16	15-54	19	19	96

Shooting: Field goals, 39.6%; free throws, 93.8%

Three-point goals: 9-24 (Melton 3-7, T.Harris 2-4, Harden 2-5, Maxey 1-4, Tucker 1-4). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 3 (Harden, Reed, T.Harris). Turnovers: 8 (Harden 3, Maxey 3, McDaniels, Reed). Steals: 7 (Maxey 2, Tucker 2, Harden, Reed, T.Harris). Technical Fouls: Tucker, 11:30 fourth.

BROOKLYN

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Finney-Smith	19	3-7	0-0	0-1	1	1	8
Johnson	39	4-13	2-2	1-10	4	1	11
Claxton	37	8-10	3-5	3-12	1	2	19
Bridges	38	6-18	3-6	1-5	3	2	17
Dinwiddie	39	7-13	3-4	0-3	6	3	20
O'Neale	24	1-6	0-0	0-2	4	1	3
Curry	21	3-6	0-0	0-3	1	0	6
J.Harris	13	1-5	2-2	0-2	0	3	4
Mills	5	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals		33-80	13-19	5-38	20	14	88

Shooting: Field goals, 41.3%; free throws, 68.4%

Three-point goals: 9-37 (Dinwiddie 3-6, Finney-Smith 2-5, Bridges 2-6, O'Neale 1-5, Johnson 1-6, Mills 0-2, Curry 0-3, J.Harris 0-4). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (Claxton 4, Dinwiddie, Finney-Smith). Turnovers: 10 (Dinwiddie 4, Claxton 2, Johnson 2, Bridges, Finney-Smith). Steals: 3 (Finney-Smith, Johnson, O'Neale). Technical Fouls: coach Ryan Forehan-Kelly, 11:30 fourth.

Philadelphia	22	18	26	30— 96
Brooklyn	29	19	15	25— 88

A—18,037. T—2:19.

Heat 121, Bucks 99

MILWAUKEE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Middleton	33	8-14	4-5	1-5	6	3	23
Portis	23	4-9	0-0	4-10	1	6	9
Lopez	29	3-9	0-0	0-3	2	1	6
Allen	27	5-10	0-0	1-4	2	1	14
Holiday	35	8-18	1-3	1-5	3	1	19
Connaughton	25	4-7	0-0	1-7	3	2	11
Ingles	22	2-7	0-0	0-0	1	1	5
Crowder	13	2-4	1-2	0-1	1	0	5
Carter	12	0-2	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
T.Antetokounmpo	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Beauchamp	3	2-3	0-0	0-1	0	0	5
Dragic	3	0-2	2-2	0-0	1	0	2
Leonard	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals		38-85	8-12	8-37	22	15	99

Shooting: Field goals, 44.7%; free throws, 66.7%

Three-point goals: 15-39 (Allen 4-7, Middleton 3-5, Connaughton 3-6, Holiday 2-6, Beauchamp 1-1, Portis 1-4, Ingles 1-6, Dragic 0-1, Lopez 0-1, Carter 0-2). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Holiday, Ingles, Lopez). Turnovers: 18 (Holiday 5, Middleton 5, Ingles 3, Lopez 2, Allen, Connaughton, Portis). Steals: 7 (Middleton 2, Portis 2, Connaughton, Crowder, Lopez). Technical Fouls: coach Mike Budenholzer, 9:20 fourth.

MIAMI

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Butler	28	12-19	2-3	3-5	4	2	30
Love	20	2-6	0-0	0-7	2	0	6
Adebayo	30	4-10	4-4	2-11	5	4	12
Strus	23	5-8	0-0	0-0	0	0	12
Vincent	17	1-5	0-0	1-1	2	2	2
Martin	32	4-8	3-4	2-11	2	4	12
Lowry	27	5-10	3-3	0-1	3	2	15
Robinson	23	7-9	1-1	0-3	2	0	20
Oladipo	19	4-6	0-0	0-2	1	3	8
Zeller	7	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Highsmith	3	1-1	2-2	0-1	0	1	4
Yurtseven	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Haslem	2	0-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals		45-84	15-17	8-44	22	18	121

Shooting: Field goals, 53.6%; free throws, 88.2%

Three-point goals: 16-33 (Robinson 5-6, Butler 4-4, Strus 2-4, Lowry 2-5, Love 2-6, Martin 1-5, Haslem 0-1, Oladipo 0-1, Vincent 0-1). Team Rebounds: 2. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 4 (Adebayo, Love, Lowry, Oladipo). Turnovers: 13 (Adebayo 3, Vincent 3, Butler 2, Martin 2, Robinson 2, Lowry). Steals: 13 (Adebayo 2, Butler 2, Martin 2, Oladipo 2, Love, Lowry, Strus, Vincent, Zeller). Technical Fouls: None.

Milwaukee	21	32	26	20— 99
Miami	29	37	28	27—121

A—19,734. T—2:15.

LETTERS

Give heave-ho to human umpires

It's time to bring on automated balls and strikes. Last Sunday's Dodgers-Cubs game ended with a called strike three on Freddie Freeman on a pitch clearly shown on TV to be out of the strike zone. This is not unusual. An analysis from 2018 showed 53 games ended on an erroneous called strike. This glaring problem must be corrected.

Richard Balsam
Los Angeles

::

MLB must hold these umps accountable for their egregious bad/missed calls. And it wouldn't hurt for Dave Roberts to channel his inner Tommy Lasorda during games and "gently" let the umps know how wrong they were.

Rich Hardt
Long Beach

::

Say what you want about all the changes in MLB rules this year. At least the sport is trying to evolve and improve. But one change that is urgently needed is a computer-assisted strike zone.

Bruce Fischer
Huntington Beach

Sticky situation

Bill Plaschke has gone from being a Monday morning quarterback to a Thursday morning quarterback. He somehow connects Max Scherzer getting ejected Wednesday to his decision to pass on a start two years ago in a playoff game due to a tired arm. Of course, if Scherzer had started that game and given up four in the first, Bill would have said he was selfish and should have given the start to someone else.

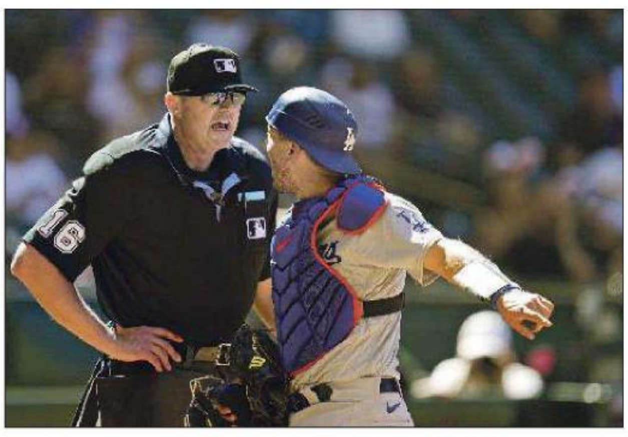
Bert Bergen
La Cañada Flintridge

Manage this

Here's a scary thought for Dave Roberts. He might have to manage his team during the regular season this year. His previous teams were so stacked with talent that the regular season was essentially on autopilot. In the past, he didn't start managing until the playoffs, when he often appeared as a deer in the headlights.

David Waldowski
Laguna Woods

::



Ross D. Franklin Associated Press

AUSTIN BARNES argues with umpire Lance Barrett after Barnes was ejected for questioning a call.

After watching Friday's disgraceful Dodgers game against the Cubs and the terrible pitching performances by Jake Reed and Andre Jackson, I find it hard to believe those two were the best available from triple A.

If that is true, it is going to be a long season.

Wayne Kamiya
El Segundo

::

No matter what happens with the Dodgers this year, it's a disappointing season when the only time we get to see Walker Buehler is in a BMW commercial.

Marc Gerber
Encino

Lakers split

Lakers coach Darvin Ham was happy with a split against an undermanned Memphis team? What would the late, great Kobe Bryant think of that?

Tamra Donald
Lomita

::

Every now and again a sports personality does something really stupid, and this time it was Dillon Brooks of the Memphis Grizzlies. After an unimpressive home split of their first two playoff games with the Lakers, Brooks felt compelled to publicly criticize LeBron James for being "old." What was the upside of his comment? As a coach or teammate of Brooks, I would tell him to button it up.

Alan Abajian
Alta Loma

Angels lament

The Times treats the Angels as if they're from a foreign country. The game write-ups often don't rate a headline on the first sports page, and Dylan Hernández is more focused on a character assassination of Anthony Rendon than the actual games. While I enjoyed Sarah Valenzuela's thoughtful piece on Logan O'Hoppe, from the game write-up it's doubtful that she even watched it.

Robert E. Ameele
Trabuco Canyon

::

Thank you for the intimate look at Angels rookie Logan O'Hoppe as he spoke about his family and friends who are watching him at Yankee Stadium. Logan choking up while talking about playing for "everybody that you've loved" indicated deep facets of his fiber and makeup. Thank you to reporter Sarah Valenzuela for her touching article.

Richie Locasso
Hemet

Fletcher treatment

David Fletcher deserves better than this. The eye test shows that when Fletcher is in the lineup, he is a .280/.290 hitter and capable of playing various infield positions. Yet general manager Perry Minasian acquired Brandon Drury and Jake Lamb so now they have to play every day, even though they are hitting poorly.

Bob Sands
La Habra

Lacking ownership

Throughout his ownership of the Angels, Arte Moreno has made too many rotten decisions to count. His latest gaffe has the great radio team of Terry Smith and Mark Langston broadcasting away games from a remote booth in Anaheim. Any listener can hear the difference, and it's not for the better.

Jim Fredrick
Manhattan Beach

End of an era?

I think it's pretty clear that the Kawhi Leonard/Paul George era is over and it's time for the Clippers to move on. They can't rely on either one to play in a game, much less together.

Alvin S. Michaelson
Marina del Rey

::

The Clippers will never go far in the playoffs because of two reasons: While Kawhi Leonard has won two championships and two Finals MVPs, he seems to have no desire to prove his worth as a player. Wouldn't everyone like to take every other day off and still receive your full paycheck?

Manuel S. Reynosa
Ventura

Coach and mentor

Darryl Stroh is a legend in local sports and deserving of induction to the City Section Hall of Fame. My experiences with him many years ago speak to his qualities as a fine human being.

He had a fearsome reputation with the PE classes at Patrick Henry Middle School when I attended in 1965.

What I remember so strongly was Mr. Stroh's support of each of us. He kindly pushed us to accomplish what we could and brought a sense of brotherhood to a group that initially would rather have been somewhere else.

Even at age 70 that sense of Mr. Stroh's compassionate caring is with me still.

Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo

Thanks, commish

My vote is for Eric Sondheimer to become the next Southern Section sports commissioner. He knows what it takes to do the job.

David Pietrasanta
Encino

::

The Times welcomes expressions of all views. Letters should be brief and become the property of The Times. They may be edited and republished in any format. Each must include a valid mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms will not be used.

Email: sports@latimes.com

Lakers jump out early, take 2-1 series lead

[**Lakers,** from D1]
ery clank, the Grizzlies' confidence and physicality growing with every second, pushing the Lakers away from a commanding start to their first-round series.

Memphis set the terms of that game, determining the pace, the force and the way the Lakers would have to play as they tried to claw back into the game — a trip the Lakers couldn't make.

Saturday with the series knotted 1-1, things couldn't have started much better.

With the Lakers focused on a fast start and the capacity crowd hungry for a sellout playoff atmosphere that hasn't existed for the Lakers in a decade, the Lakers set the terms.

James, goaded by Dillon Brooks after Game 2, attacked the basket for the first two points. The crowd howled whenever Brooks touched the ball, daring him to shoot and celebrating when he missed.

The lead was six. Then it was 16. And then 26.

It was the best-case result after the Lakers keyed in on the start in practice, coach Darvin Ham urging his team to "dig in" and "make multiple efforts."

By the time the first quarter ended, the Lakers led 35-9, tied for the most lopsided first quarter in NBA postseason history. The Grizzlies, somehow, made only three of 25 shots.

The lead pushed to 29 in the second quarter, but the Lakers were destined to learn one of the NBA's undeniable truths.

The only thing worse than being down 29 early in this NBA, though, is being up 29.

"Things are not going to be perfect," Ham said. " … You can't panic."

The Lakers cooled down as Memphis settled into the game — they were really never that hot to begin with, their offense being driven almost entirely from their defense.

Jumpers were hard to come by as Memphis and Morant kept attacking.

Despite the padding and tape around his right hand and wrist, Morant hit a pair of threes as the Grizzlies made their push at the end of the second.

Memphis closed the half on a 13-1 run, the Lakers scoring only 18 in the quarter to give the Grizzlies life.

Brooks, who said he was comfortable poking bears when he called James "old" after Game 2, got ejected seconds into the second half of Game 3. Brooks reached in and hit James in the groin, triggering a flagrant two.

He was booed throughout the game.

While Memphis trimmed the deficit to as close as 13 midway into the third, Davis finished the third with nine points in the final four minutes of the quarter to shove away Memphis again.

The Grizzlies pushed again and got within nine in the fourth, but the Lakers held off Memphis despite 24 points from Morant in the final quarter.

After having extra days off between each of the series' first two games, the series picks up speed with games coming every other day beginning with Game 4 on Monday in Los Angeles.

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

LeBRON JAMES lowers his shoulder as he drives through Grizzlies guard Ja Morant in the third quarter. James finished with 25 points and nine rebounds.

LAKERS 111, GRIZZLIES 101

MEMPHIS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brooks	19	3-13	0-1	1-2	0	2	7
Jackson Jr.	31	4-12	4-4	2-5	0	4	13
Tillman	39	3-5	0-0	4-12	2	3	6
Bane	32	7-14	1-1	1-5	2	3	18
Morant	41	13-26	13-14	3-9	13	2	45
Kennard	25	2-4	0-0	2-3	3	2	4
Jones	16	0-7	0-0	2-4	3	0	0
Roddy	13	1-4	0-0	2-4	0	1	2
Aldama	11	2-7	0-0	1-2	0	3	6
Konchar	8	0-1	0-0	0-4	0	2	0
Totals		**35-93**	**18-20**	**18-50**	**23**	**22**	**101**

Shooting: Field goals, 37.6%; free throws, 90.0%

Three-point goals: 13-39 (Morant 6-10, Bane 3-7, Aldama 2-4, Jackson Jr. 1-3, Brooks 1-5, Kennard 0-1, Konchar 0-1, Roddy 0-3, Jones 0-5). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Tillman 2). Turnovers: 18 (Jackson Jr. 6, Bane 4, Morant 3, Jones 2, Aldama, Brooks, Roddy). Steals: 7 (Jackson Jr. 2, Bane, Brooks, Kennard, Konchar, Tillman). Technical Fouls: Bane, 00:55 fourth.

LAKERS

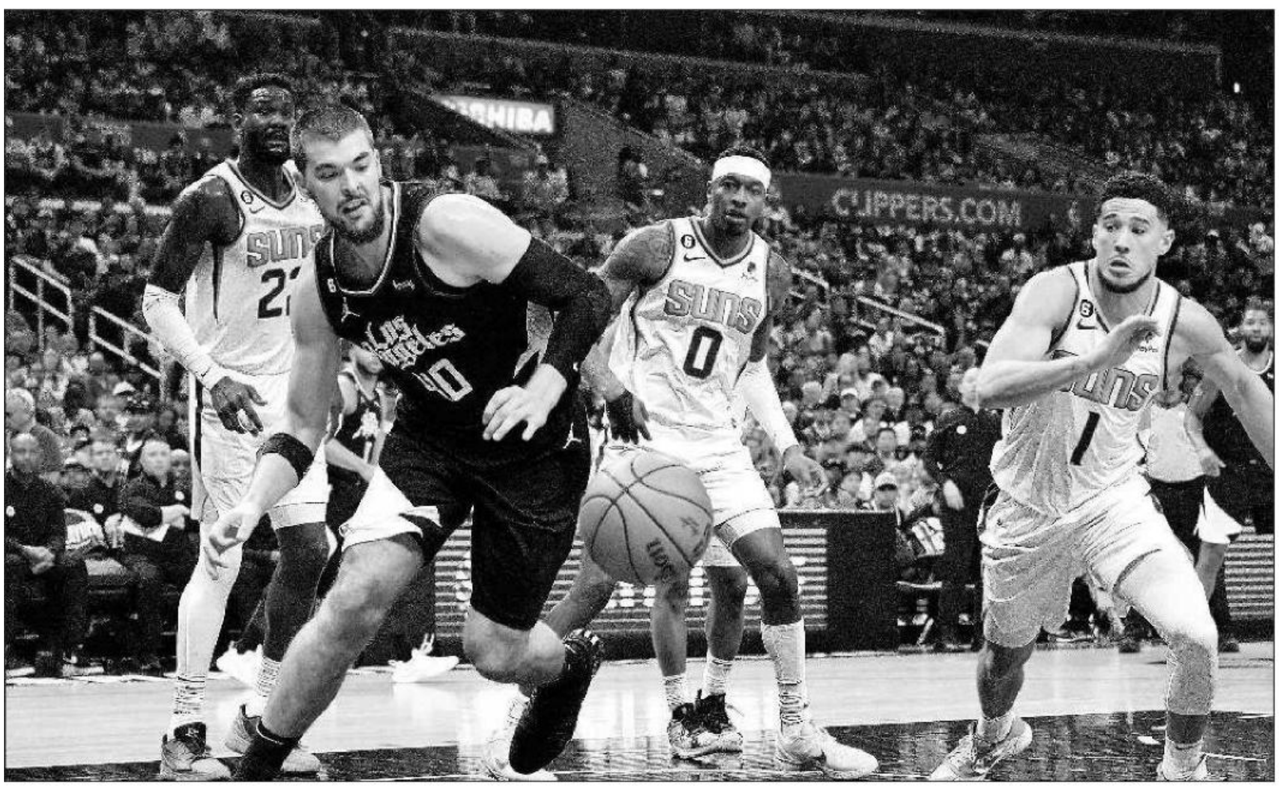
	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
James	36	10-20	5-7	2-9	5	3	25
Vanderbilt	21	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	5	0
Davis	38	11-24	8-10	4-17	2	3	31
Reaves	35	5-10	2-3	4-6	2	2	13
Russell	31	5-14	5-5	1-4	7	1	17
Schroder	23	3-6	0-0	0-1	3	1	7
Hachimura	22	6-10	2-2	0-5	0	1	16
Brown Jr.	16	1-3	0-0	0-3	0	1	2
Beasley	13	0-2	0-0	0-2	0	1	0
Gabriel	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**41-90**	**22-27**	**11-48**	**19**	**18**	**111**

Shooting: Field goals, 45.6%; free throws, 81.5%

Three-point goals: 7-28 (Hachimura 2-2, Russell 2-7, Schroder 1-3, Davis 1-4, Reaves 1-4, Beasley 0-1, Vanderbilt 0-1, Brown Jr. 0-2, James 0-4). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 3. Blocked Shots: 8 (Davis 3, Vanderbilt 3, Brown Jr., James). Turnovers: 13 (Davis 3, James 3, Hachimura 2, Russell 2, Schroder 2, Reaves). Steals: 11 (Davis 2, Schroder 2, Vanderbilt 2, Brown Jr., Hachimura, James, Reaves, Russell). Technical Fouls: Hachimura, 1:23 third.

Memphis	9	28	31	33—101
LAKERS	35	18	35	23—111

A—18,997. T—2:33.


GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

THE CLIPPERS' Ivica Zubac (40) beats the Suns' Devin Booker (1) to a loose ball in the second half of Game 4. Booker scored 30 points and collected seven assists as the Suns took a 3-1 series lead over the Clippers.

Westbrook shows a fresh approach

[**Hernández,** from D1]
brook is carrying himself in a way that will allow the Clippers to preserve a measure of dignity as they fade into another offseason of despair.

In the wake of his 37-point performance in Game 4, Westbrook was asked about not attempting a single free throw during a game in which he shot 29 times.

"I keep attacking, man," he said. "Stay positive. Don't get distracted. Just being in the league over time, when fouls, they don't call it, just concentrate on making the shot. They call the foul, they call it. They don't, they don't."

This variation of the control-what-you-can-control mantra is what the other Clippers have to hear. This is how they have to approach the rest of the series if they are to keep alive whatever remote chance they still have of reversing their deficit.

"With Russ," coach Tyronn Lue said, "when he's on the floor, we believe we can win every night."

On a minimum contract that will expire when the Clippers are officially eliminated by the Suns, Westbrook might not be a long-term solution for a franchise that remains in search of its first NBA championship. However, he has proved to be the right player for these Clippers in this particular situation, his trademark full-throttle style and noticeably changed demeanor inspiring them to dream when they realistically have no reasons to.

"I didn't know how to feel about [signing Westbrook] when it happened," center Ivica Zubac said. "I didn't know how we were going to make it work. But he's been amazing, amazing for us."

Who would have guessed?

"The way he's been playing since he got with the Clippers shows everybody who he really is," Suns forward Kevin Durant said.

Over the last two months, Westbrook hasn't exhibited the defensive and combative behavior that characterized his time with the Lakers. Maybe he gained perspective after hitting rock bottom. Maybe he knew he had to comport himself better if he wanted to remain in the league. Either way, since switching locker rooms at Crypto.com Arena, his disposition has brightened to where he now exchanges pleasantries with some local reporters with whom he previously clashed.

Westbrook turns the ball over as much with the Clippers as he did with the Lakers, but his new employer is willing to accept his limitations in exchange for the energy he provides, a sort of Tim Tebow in basketball shorts. An example: Westbrook made only three of 19 shots in Game 1 but had a key defensive play on Devin Booker near the end of the game to secure a Clippers win.

"I just try to instill confidence in our guys, not to put our head down," Westbrook said. "You know [the Suns] are going to make some tough shots throughout the series, and that's part of leadership. You've got to make sure you rally around the guys you have and find ways to instill confidence in them through tough moments, not [just] when things are going well."

Westbrook delivered more conventionally effective performances in Game 3, in which he scored 30 points, and Game 4, in which he scored 37. With Game 3 near-hero Norman Powell shooting poorly Saturday, Westbrook shot and shot and shot some more, taking nearly a third of the Clippers' field-goal attempts.

"I just thought Russ did a great job of leading that charge, attacking the basket on the offensive end, defensively guarding KD and Book [Devin Booker]," Lue said. "I thought the guys did a good job of following his lead, and we're going to need it again come Tuesday [in Game 5]."

Westbrook won't be able to extract the Clippers from their distinct version of purgatory. He won't save their season. Yet in his brief time with them, he has shown he still has something to offer, and, in doing so, almost certainly guaranteed himself a place in the league next season.

SUNS 112, CLIPPERS 100

PHOENIX

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Craig	24	4-7	0-0	2-5	0	2	8
Durant	44	9-17	10-11	1-11	6	3	31
Ayton	35	7-13	1-4	4-13	1	2	15
Booker	41	10-21	7-8	3-9	7	1	30
Paul	38	8-17	0-0	1-4	9	0	19
Okogie	24	2-4	2-2	1-3	1	2	6
Lee	13	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	2	0
Biyombo	12	1-2	1-2	1-2	0	1	3
Shamet	4	0-2	0-0	1-1	0	1	0
Totals		**41-84**	**21-27**	**14-49**	**25**	**14**	**112**

Shooting: Field goals, 48.8%; free throws, 77.8%

Three-point goals: 9-22 (Durant 3-4, Booker 3-6, Paul 3-6, Lee 0-1, Shamet 0-1, Craig 0-2, Okogie 0-2). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 5. Blocked Shots: 8 (Paul 3, Ayton 2, Biyombo, Craig, Okogie). Turnovers: 13 (Ayton 5, Booker 4, Durant 3, Biyombo). Steals: 10 (Booker 3, Paul 3, Ayton 2, Lee, Okogie). Technical Fouls: None.

CLIPPERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gordon	32	4-8	0-0	0-2	2	0	10
Morris Sr.	24	3-13	2-2	0-3	0	2	9
Zubac	24	2-5	0-0	3-9	1	1	4
Powell	36	4-15	4-6	1-4	1	5	14
Westbrook	40	17-29	0-0	1-6	4	3	37
Mann	30	5-9	0-0	1-2	4	3	13
Plumlee	19	3-4	2-2	3-6	3	3	8
Hyland	18	2-6	0-0	0-0	2	1	5
Covington	8	0-2	0-0	0-1	2	2	0
Batum	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	0
Totals		**40-92**	**8-10**	**9-33**	**19**	**22**	**100**

Shooting: Field goals, 43.5%; free throws, 80.0%

Three-point goals: 12-37 (Mann 3-4, Westbrook 3-6, Gordon 2-6, Powell 2-6, Hyland 1-5, Morris Sr. 1-8, Batum 0-1, Covington 0-1). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Gordon, Mann, Morris Sr., Plumlee, Westbrook). Turnovers: 13 (Westbrook 4, Powell 3, Plumlee 2, Hyland, Mann, Morris Sr., Zubac). Steals: 7 (Gordon, Hyland, Mann, Morris Sr., Powell, Westbrook, Zubac). Technical Fouls: None.

Phoenix	23	25	35	29—112
CLIPPERS	30	17	31	22—100

A—19,068. T—2:13.

Thin Clippers pushed to brink

[**Clippers,** from D1]
guard Eric Gordon said. "We have to shoot the ball very well. We can't have droughts. But the competitiveness is there. You see it."

Point guard Russell Westbrook embodied it while scoring a game-high 37 points, finishing with six rebounds, five assists and four turnovers, a figure in constant motion while scoring 10 straight points in the fourth quarter to keep the outcome in suspense until the final minutes, when Chris Paul answered by scoring 12 of his 19 points in the final quarter.

Kevin Durant scored 31 and Devin Booker added 30 for the Suns.

"It's been tough but we know what we got in this locker room," center Ivica Zubac said. "We know we've been fighting so many years now like this and we know we got a deep squad. We got a lot of guys who can hoop and we got a great coaching staff that's gonna put us in a position to go out there and have a chance. We believe it. We know we can do it. We've been close in every game, even with missing Kawhi and PG.

"You can't cry about it. Those are the cards we've been dealt and got to make the most out of it. It's tough but it is what it is."

What it was Saturday? A repeat of Game 3: A frenzied effort that would not outlast self-inflicted errors, as well as Phoenix's offensive edge, including at the free-throw line, where the Suns took 21 more free throws than the Clippers on Thursday and the margin was 17 on Saturday. The Clippers again left wondering how they could implement a game plan that called for physicality. One game after scoring 42, guard Norman Powell drew his fifth foul early in the fourth quarter and finished with 14 points on 15 shots.

"Free throws is the game-changer for the game," said Gordon, who scored 10 points. "When you're trying to be physical and they're getting to the free-throw line, I mean, it's just not a good combination of things."

Westbrook hinted at the frustration after taking 20 shots inside the paint but not attempting a free throw.

In Game 5, on Tuesday, he promised to "keep attacking the basket, and man, hopefully, you know, we get rewarded for doing that. But you know, we'll see."

Since Thursday's loss in Game 3, the Clippers described a path to victory with ultra-slim margins. It would require limiting turnovers and bad fouls while utilizing what was supposed to be a season-long strength, their depth, to "run them out the gym," backup guard Bones Hyland said Friday. In the first three games Booker had averaged 44 minutes, Durant more than 43 and Paul 39.

Yet after building an 11-point lead 10 minutes before halftime, the Clippers gave it all back in five minutes, committing five turnovers in the stretch. Eight of their 13 turnovers were committed in the quarter, and virtually all were of the live-ball variety — a basketball cardinal sin.

The Suns had a second wind.

"We are scrapping and we are competing, but then we've got to be smarter," Lue said. "Just fouling in the bonus and the penalty, taking care of the basketball, good shot selection."

The Clippers have tried tilting the math of the series by firing far more three-pointers. They attempted 15 more three-pointers than the Suns on Saturday but made only three more.

They tried a change to the starting lineup, replacing Nicolas Batum — who had shot one for eight this series — with Marcus Morris Sr., who had not started, and played once, since March 25. Lue did not delve into his reasoning, saying only that he "just decided to do it." After Morris shot three for 13, Batum 0 for 1 and Robert Covington 0 for 2, Lue has the same tricky problem to solve for Tuesday's Game 5 — how to spark meaningful production from his power forwards?

One way or another, the Clippers will be returning Wednesday to Los Angeles.

They have one more game to decide whether that trip home will be to play a sixth game in their first-round series or to clean out their lockers for good.

NBA PLAYOFF SCHEDULE FIRST ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

1 Denver vs. 8 Minnesota
Nuggets lead series 3-0

Gm 1	Denver 109, Minnesota 80
Gm 2	Denver 122, Minnesota 113
Gm 3	Denver 120, Minnesota 111
Gm 4	Today at Minnesota, 6:30
Gm 5	Tuesday at Denver, 6
Gm 6	Thurs. at Minnesota, TBD
Gm 7	Sat. at Denver, TBD

2 Memphis vs. 7 LAKERS
Lakers lead series 2-1

Gm 1	LAKERS 128, Memphis 112
Gm 2	Memphis 103, LAKERS 93
Gm 3	LAKERS 111, Memphis 101
Gm 4	Monday at LAKERS, 7
Gm 5	Wed. at Memphis, 4:30
Gm 6	Friday at LAKERS, TBD
Gm 7	April 30 at Memphis, TBD

3 Sacramento vs. 6 Golden State
Kings lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Sacramento 126, G.S. 123
Gm 2	Sacramento 114, G.S. 106
Gm 3	G.S. 114, Sacramento 97
Gm 4	Today at G.S., 12:30
Gm 5	Wed. at Sac., 7
Gm 6	Friday at G.S., TBD
Gm 7	April 30 at Sac., TBD

4 Phoenix vs. 5 CLIPPERS
Suns lead series 2-1

Gm 1	CLIPPERS 115, Phoenix 110
Gm 2	Phnx. 123, CLIPPERS 109
Gm 3	Phoenix 129, CLIPPERS 124
Gm 4	Phnx. 112, CLIPPERS 100
Gm 5	Tuesday at Phoenix, 7
Gm 6	Thurs. at CLIPPERS, TBD
Gm 7	Sat. at Phoenix, TBD

EASTERN CONFERENCE

1 Milwaukee vs. 8 Miami
Heat lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Miami 130, Milwaukee 117
Gm 2	Milwaukee 138, Miami 122
Gm 3	Miami 122, Milwaukee 99
Gm 4	Monday at Miami, 4:30
Gm 5	Wed. at Milwaukee, 6:30
Gm 6	Friday at Miami, TBD
Gm 7	April 30 at Milwaukee, TBD

2 Boston vs. 7 Atlanta
Celtics lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Boston 112, Atlanta 99
Gm 2	Boston 119, Atlanta 106
Gm 3	Atlanta 130, Boston 122
Gm 4	Today at Atlanta, 4
Gm 5	Tuesday at Boston, 4:30
Gm 6	Thursday at Atlanta, TBD
Gm 7	Saturday at Boston, TBD

3 Philadelphia vs. 6 Brooklyn
76ers win series 4-0

Gm 1	Phila. 121, Brooklyn 101
Gm 2	Phila. 96, Brooklyn 84
Gm 3	Phila. 102, Brooklyn 97
Gm 4	Phila. 96, Brooklyn 88

4 Cleveland vs. 5 New York
Knicks lead series 2-1

Gm 1	New York 101, Cleveland 97
Gm 2	Cleveland 107, New York 90
Gm 3	New York 99, Cleveland 79
Gm 4	Today at N.Y., 10 a.m.
Gm 5	Wed. at Cleveland, 4
Gm 6	Friday at New York, TBD
Gm 7	April 30 at Cleveland, TBD

Games 5-7 if necessary

All times PDT, p.m. except noted

Photo illustration by Tim Hubbard Los Angeles Times; photographs by Associated Press

MOCK DRAFT

Insiders predict how teams will pick

BY SAM FARMER /// ON THE NFL

On your marks, get set, mock ...

In keeping with tradition that stretches nearly two decades, The Times turned to beat writers who cover their teams on a daily basis to create one version of the NFL draft's opening round.

There are 31 selections in this first round instead of 32 because the Miami Dolphins were stripped of this year's selection for tampering.

This mock starts with the selection of a quarterback — the real draft is sure to begin that way — but there are also early runs on edge rushers and defensive backs.

There are other notable tidbits such as Tennessee quarterback Hendon Hooker going in the first round, and USC receiver Jordan Addison winding up with Josh Allen throwing him passes.

How reporters from across the country see the first round of the 2023 NFL draft unfolding:

1. Carolina Panthers — Bryce Young (QB) | Alabama: The thinking has been the Panthers were leaning toward C.J. Stroud, but Young has impressed Panthers decision-makers with his ability to process and create special plays like Steph Curry, to whom he's often compared. Frank Reich has a history with big quarterbacks, but Young's talent and the way NFL passing games have evolved make him the pick. — *Joe Person, the Athletic*

2. Houston Texans — Will Anderson (Edge) | Alabama: The Texans wanted Bryce Young but lost their chance to pick him when they beat the Colts in the final game of the season. Instead they draft the top-ranked edge rusher to fill another position of need. — *Aaron Wilson, KPRC-TV*

3. Arizona Cardinals — Tyree Wilson (Edge) | Texas Tech: While I'm fully expecting a trade down to acquire more picks, Wilson fills a huge need as big as his 7-foot, 2-inch wingspan. — *Bob McManaman, Arizona Republic*

4. Indianapolis Colts — C.J. Stroud (QB) | Ohio State: New coach Shane Steichen wants to implement a heavy passing attack that features numerous downfield attempts. Stroud's combination of accuracy and experience suggest he can handle this role as a rookie. — *Stephen Holder, ESPN*

5. Seattle Seahawks — Jalen Carter (DT) | Georgia: Pete Carroll said after the season that the Seahawks needed to become more dynamic up front. The team will take a gamble that Carter can live up to his full potential.

— *Bob Condotta, Seattle Times*

6. Detroit Lions — Devon Witherspoon (CB) | Illinois: With Anderson and Wilson off the board, the Lions can pivot from getting more help for their pass rush to adding depth at defensive back. Free-agent addition Cam Sutton is the only cornerback the Lions have signed beyond 2023. — *Dave Birkett, Detroit Free Press*

7. Las Vegas Raiders — Christian Gonzalez (CB) | Oregon: Don't be surprised under this scenario if the Raiders trade down and target Joey Porter Jr. It has been decades since the Raiders have had an impact, play-making cornerback. — *Vincent Bonsignore, Las Vegas Review-Journal*

8. Atlanta Falcons — Paris Johnson Jr. (OT) | Ohio State: Johnson can come in and help stabilize at right tackle and then move over to the left side when Jake Matthews is done. — *D. Orlando Ledbetter, Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

9. Chicago Bears — Broderick Jones (OT) | Georgia: The Bears could look to trade down in this scenario. Their greatest need is an edge rusher or three-technique like Carter. But they might be able to get an offensive tackle in the teens. — *Brad Biggs, Chicago Tribune*

10. Philadelphia Eagles — Nolan Smith (Edge) | Georgia: If this is the way it falls, I could see Howie Roseman trading out, especially if Anderson and Carter go early. If he has no choice but to pick, he'll favor prospects on the line. — *Jeff McLane, Philadelphia Inquirer*

11. Tennessee Titans — Peter Skoronski (OT) | Northwestern: The Titans are reformulating their offensive line. Longtime incumbent left tackle Taylor Lewan is gone and left guard Aaron Brewer will be better off at center. They signed former first-rounder Andre Dillard. He and Skoronski can sort out who is the guard and who is the tackle on the left side. — *Paul Kuharsky, PaulKuharsky.com*

12. Houston Texans — Jaxon Smith-Njigba (WR) | Ohio State: General Manager Nick Caserio likes to trade down, and the Texans already got an edge rusher, so they fill a desperate need on offense. — *John McClain, GallerySports.com*

13. New York Jets — Darnell Wright (OT) | Tennessee: The Jets believe they can solve their quarterback issues by trading for Aaron Rodgers, but they need to protect him. Wright is probably more of a right tackle than a left, but the Jets could use help at either tackle spot. — *Brian Costello, New York Post*

14. New England Patriots — Joey Porter Jr. (CB) | Penn State: It's tempting to pick a receiver here for the Patriots, and they also need an offensive tackle for the future. But they also have a glaring need at cornerback and Porter gives them a big, physical presence on the outside that they haven't had since Stephon Gilmore left two years ago. — *Ben Volin, Boston Globe*

15. Green Bay Packers — Lukas Van Ness (DE) | Iowa: The Packers are getting thin at edge rusher with Rashan Gary coming back from a torn anterior cruciate ligament and Preston Smith at 30. General manager Brian Gutekunst puts a premium on premium positions. — *Pete Dougherty, Green Bay Press-Gazette*

16. Washington Commanders — Brian Branch (Safety) | Alabama: Although there's a temptation to pick up a tight end such as Dalton Kincaid here, the Commanders love their versatile safeties and have a void after cutting veteran Bobby McCain earlier this offseason. Branch is a hybrid safety who has loads of experience in the slot, can drop down in the box and cover. — *Nicki Jhabvala, Washington Post*

17. Pittsburgh Steelers — Deonte Banks (CB) | Maryland: Even though it wouldn't likely come to this, no matter what (trade up or back) the Steelers are definitely in the market for a cornerback. Eight of their 30 pre-draft visitors were cornerbacks, including who they'd prefer at 17, Porter. The position is light even with the addition of Patrick Peterson in free agency to pair with Levi Wallace. Historically, the Steelers have stayed away from corners in the first round with only Artie Burns being selected first over the last 25 years, but it's a new football operations in Pittsburgh and some new beliefs as well. — *Mark Kaboly, the Athletic*

18. Detroit Lions — Anthony Richardson (QB) | Florida: This wasn't the plan heading in, but ... well, sometimes the universe does you a favor. The Lions are due for a few. Richardson could settle in behind Jared Goff for a year or two, and he'd give this emerging offense a fun, dynamic weapon for short-yardage packages. Landing a potential franchise quarterback without having to trade up is a gift. — *Chris Burke, the Athletic*

19. Tampa Bay Buccaneers — Hendon Hooker (QB) | Tennessee: The Buccaneers' biggest need is at offensive tackle, but the top four are gone. An edge rusher would also be a huge need. But the Bucs take what would otherwise be a top 4-5 quarterback in the draft if not for his ACL injury. The Bucs don't know what they have in Kyle Trask, but he probably will be No. 2 behind Baker Mayfield, who is on a one-year make-it contract and will become a free agent. This is Mayfield's fourth team since July. Hooker had a big, accurate arm and threw 57 touchdowns with only five interceptions the last two seasons. He gets a redshirt season. The Bucs will win too many games to be in range of a top quarterback in 2024, so they get their quarterback of the future now and someone who would've been a top 5-10 pick without his injury. He's already 25, but Tom Brady was 45. Who are we kidding? — *Rick Stroud, Tampa Bay Times*

DRAFT PICKS

Order of picks in the first round of the NFL draft (Thursday, 5 p.m. PDT, ESPN, NFL Network) and team picks per round:

ROUND 1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
1 Carolina	1	1	1	1	0	0
2 Houston	1	2	1	1	3	2
3 Arizona	1	2	1	1	2	0
4 Indianapolis	1	1	1	3	0	2
5 Seattle	2	1	1	2	1	1
6 Detroit	2	1	0	2	2	0
7 Las Vegas	1	2	1	3	2	2
8 Atlanta	1	1	2	0	0	2
9 Chicago	2	1	2	2	0	2
10 Philadelphia	1	1	0	0	0	2
11 Tennessee	1	1	0	1	1	1
12 Houston						
13 N.Y. Jets	2	0	1	1	1	0
14 New England	1	1	3	0	4	1
15 Green Bay	1	1	1	2	0	4
16 Washington	1	1	1	1	2	1
17 Pittsburgh	2	1	1	0	0	2
18 Detroit						
19 Tampa Bay	1	1	0	2	3	1
20 Seattle						
21 CHARGERS	1	1	1	1	1	1
22 Baltimore	0	1	1	1	1	0
23 Minnesota	0	1	1	1	1	0
24 Jacksonville	1	1	2	0	3	1
25 N.Y. Giants	1	1	1	2	1	3
26 Dallas	1	1	1	1	1	1
27 Buffalo	1	1	1	1	1	0
28 Cincinnati	1	1	1	1	1	1
29 New Orleans	1	1	1	2	0	2
30 Philadelphia						
29 Kansas City	1	1	2	1	2	2
NO R1 PICK	**R2**	**R3**	**R4**	**R5**	**R6**	**R7**
RAMS	1	2	0	3	3	2
Denver	0	2	1	1	1	0
Cleveland	0	2	2	2	1	1
Miami	1	1	0	0	1	1
San Francisco	0	3	0	3	1	4

20. Seattle Seahawks — Myles Murphy (Edge) | Clemson: The Seahawks are so dedicated to remaking their defensive front, both of their first-round picks are defensive linemen. Murphy is 6-5. He had 18½ sacks in just three college seasons. Pairing him on the edge opposite Uchenna Nwosu at this premium position, for four years on a rookie contract is, a cheaper and longer-term solution than buying it in NFL free agency. — *Gregg Bell, the News Tribune*

21. Chargers — Dalton Kincaid (TE) | Utah: The Chargers can't have enough offensive playmakers in their attempt to outscore Kansas City and end the Chiefs' reign in the AFC West. Kincaid gives them a threat to exploit the seams in new offensive coordinator Kellen Moore's scheme. — *Jeff Miller, Los Angeles Times*

22. Baltimore Ravens — Zay Flowers (WR) | Boston College: Ideally, the Ravens would take a cornerback, but the top four guys are gone. Eric DeCosta has made upgrading the receiving corps a primary focus this offseason, and the addition of Flowers, Odell Beckham Jr. and Nelson Agholor would give the Ravens a formidable group. — *Jeff Zrebiec, the Athletic*

23. Minnesota Vikings — Quentin Johnston (WR) | Texas Christian: The Vikings could go a number of directions here; Pittsburgh defensive tackle Calijah Kancey is also a strong possibility. But they've spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to make teams pay for focusing on Justin Jefferson. Johnston's size and speed would provide an immediate answer to that question, while giving the Vikings insurance at the position with K.J. Osborn set to hit free agency after next season. The Jefferson-Johnston combo would also make life easier for a young passer, whenever the Vikings acquire one to succeed Kirk Cousins. — *Ben Goessling, Minneapolis Star Tribune*

24. Jacksonville Jaguars — Michael Mayer (TE) |Notre Dame: Tough call for general manager Trent Baalke as need is greater at cornerback and edge rusher, but the value of Mayer as possibly the best tight end prospect in the draft is too enticing over the likes of BJ Ojulari, Emmanuel Forbes and Kelee Ringo. With Evan Engram and the team still negotiating a long-term extension, Mayer is a valuable insurance policy. — *Gene Frenette, Florida Times-Union*

25. New York Giants — Emmanuel Forbes (CB) | Mississippi State: A playmaker who set the FBS record for pick-sixes is just the kind of talent the Giants need to balance Adoree' Jackson on the other side of the defense. No one had fewer interceptions last season than the Giants. With the blitz-heavy packages the Giants run, Forbes should get plenty of chances to rectify that. — *Tom Rock, Newsday*

26. Dallas Cowboys — Bijan Robinson (RB) | Texas: A top-five talent falls into the Cowboys' lap at 26. He's not just a running back, he is a difference-making weapon and perfect tandem for Tony Pollard in place of the departed Ezekiel Elliott. — *Clarence Hill, Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

27. Buffalo Bills — Jordan Addison (WR) | USC: Scoring 10 points in a home playoff loss to the Bengals has shaped the Bills' No. 1 priority this offseason — get more weapons for quarterback Josh Allen. Addison gives them a player with the versatility to play in the slot or outside, and should be a top-three receiver as a rookie. —*Jay Skurski, Buffalo News*

28. Cincinnati Bengals — Bryan Bresee (DT) | Clemson: The Bengals are looking for more disruption in the pass rush and Bresee delivers it as a one-two punch with B.J. Hill. It's hard to pass on Calijah Kancey and even harder to pick a defensive lineman in the first round for the first time since 2001, but Bresee's upside is worth it. — *Paul Dehner, the Athletic*

29. New Orleans Saints — Adetomiwa Adebawore (DT) | Northwestern: The Saints are desperate for juice along their defensive interior and Adebawore has the freaky athleticism to be a playmaker inside. He's a bit of reach at this point, but this selection is based on traits and potential. — *Jeff Duncan, Times-Picayune/NOLA.com*

30. Philadelphia Eagles — Calijah Kancey (DT) | Pittsburgh: In this scenario, the Eagles would take two undersized pass rushers in the first round. But a team that led the NFL in sacks last season will always invest in their pass rush, and Kancey is one of the best interior rushers in the draft. His quickness is rare for the position (4.67-second 40-yard dash) and the Eagles could envision pairing Kancey with 2022 first-round pick Jordan Davis to give them a foundation in the middle of their defense. The 336-pound Davis likes to say about double teams, "two on me, somebody's free." Kancey could thrive in those situations. — *Zach Berman, the Athletic*

31. Kansas City Chiefs — Anton Harrison (OT) | Oklahoma: The Chiefs are in a great spot to take the best receiver, offensive tackle or defensive lineman that falls to them, and in this scenario, they'd be plenty happy taking Harrison with the first round's final pick. Kansas City let both of its tackles walk this offseason, while also signing Jacksonville's Jawaan Taylor to a lucrative free-agent deal to take over on the left side. Harrison would be a natural fit to play day one at right tackle, and getting a high-upside player at that position on a rookie deal is the type of high-surplus-value move that has helped the Chiefs remain atop the AFC — even as quarterback Patrick Mahomes' contract rightfully takes up a large portion of the team's salary-cap space. — *Jesse Newell, Kansas City Star*

NFL DRAFT

THURSDAY-SATURDAY AT KANSAS CITY | **ROUND 1:** THURSDAY, 5 P.M., CHANNEL 7, ESPN, NFL NETWORK

Ekeler's status among Chargers' priorities

By Jeff Miller

He stepped up to the microphone Monday and immediately revealed how eager he was to embrace the 2023 season.

"It's been 93 days since our last ballgame," Brandon Staley said in response to the opening question of his latest news conference. "So we're ready to get started."

Ninety-three days — counted out exactly by the Chargers' meticulous head coach — since his team lost a 27-0 AFC wild-card lead in Jacksonville in a dramatic, face-first tumble from the playoffs.

Since, the Chargers most notably have signed linebacker Eric Kendricks and re-signed right tackle Trey Pipkins III and defensive lineman Morgan Fox.

They've also released left guard Matt Feiler and will replace him with Zion Johnson, with Jamaree Salyer moving to right guard. Kendricks will take over for Drue Tranquill, who is now with Kansas City.

The roster has been only tweaked, a more significant retooling prevented by salary-cap constraints. Still, the Chargers' front office has work to do as draft week arrives.

Five personnel questions the team faces — not counting a Justin Herbert extension that for months has felt almost inevitable:

What's up with Austin Ekeler?

The Chargers' No. 1 running back and the NFL's top scorer over the last two seasons would like an extension as he enters the final year of a deal he signed in March 2020.

As he became increasingly frustrated by a lack of progress in negotiations, Ekeler last month asked for and was granted permission to seek a trade, a development that to date has generated little movement.

Particularly given the recent league-wide devaluing of running backs, the Chargers have to feel confident that the situation with Ekeler will be resolved in a manner that sees him remaining with the team.

But the possibility of this disconnect stretching into training camp is very real, the Chargers having recent experience with players "holding in." Melvin Ingram III did it in 2020, as did Derwin James Jr. last year.

What Ekeler needs is for the circumstances to change, which could happen if another top back in the league were to get injured, suddenly revealing a potential opportunity.

How much depth along the defensive front will be added?

The Chargers hold the No. 21 pick in the draft, and increasingly there's a sense they could go defense, especially at edge rusher or tackle (with cornerback another possibility).

After Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack, the Chargers have nothing in the way of a proven pass rusher on the perimeter. The impact of Chris Rumph II, who's only 24, so far mostly has been felt on special teams.

Veteran Kyle Van Noy remains available in free agency after starting 13 games in 2022 after Bosa was injured.

Even with the return of Fox, the Chargers need to bolster an interior that helped give up the most yards per rushing attempt in the league a year ago.

Starter Austin Johnson and key reserve Otito Ogbonnia both are coming back from significant season-ending injuries, too, further clouding the position.

Who's going to take over at cornerback and safety?

The Chargers' secondary has two available starting spots that a year ago were occupied by Bryce Callahan and Nasir Adderley. Callahan, the team's top slot corner, is still a free agent, and Adderley, the safety opposite James, retired.

(Adderley, who was set to become a free agent, was unlikely to return before deciding to step away from football.)

In-house, the options include Ja'Sir Taylor and JT Woods, a pair of 2022 draft picks Staley is hoping to mold, player development a strength upon which Staley built his coaching career.

Another possibility is Alohi Gilman, who played well in five starts at safety last season and continues to figure prominently into the team's defensive plans.

Staley repeatedly has expressed how much he values defensive backs, something to remember as the draft begins Thursday.

Is a speedy receiver coming this week?

Since moving to Los Angeles, the Chargers have had some notably fast wideouts, including Tyrell Williams, Travis Benjamin and Jalen Guyton. But the fan base continues to long for a big-time, field-stretching burner.

Is this the draft where it finally happens?

With a quarterback such as Herbert, there always will be an outside call to accumulate weapons, especially when a team has to try to outscore Patrick Mahomes twice a season.

But the Chargers also have to stop Mahomes and the Kansas City offense, and last season they were unable to do so while blowing second-half leads in both meetings.

A related matter to watch in the draft: the Chargers need to replace kick returner DeAndre Carter, who left for rival Las Vegas in free agency.

Will a tight end be taken early?

This draft has obvious talent at the position, especially with Notre Dame's Michael Mayer and Utah's Dalton Kincaid. Others include Oregon State's Luke Musgrave, Georgia's Darnell Washington and South Dakota State's Tucker Kraft.

The national assumption has been that the Chargers will add a tight end at some point this offseason, a sentiment that gained volume when the team hired Kellen Moore as its offensive coordinator.

At the moment, the Chargers have the same set of tight ends they had throughout 2022, led by Gerald Everett.

In his 10 years with the team, general manager Tom Telesco has drafted only two tight ends: Tre' McKitty (third round in 2021) and Hunter Henry (second round, 2016).

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

BRANDON STALEY is eager to put last season's playoff exit behind him as the salary-cap-constrained Chargers approach the draft with needs on defense.

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

THE RAMS could be in the market for a receiver to complement Cooper Kupp, who is coming off ankle surgery. Kupp carries a $27.8 million salary-cap number.

Rams can build depth with a bevy of picks

By Gary Klein

The Rams spent the last three months acquiring or retaining exactly zero marquee players.

A team that finished 5-12 last season essentially has done nothing to improve a roster that was ravaged by injuries and characterized by underachievement and poor decisions.

But the Rams' austerity plan does not extend to the NFL draft, at least in terms of numbers.

With 11 picks in a draft that begins Thursday in Kansas City, Mo., they could be relying on their selections perhaps more than at any time during coach Sean McVay's tenure.

For the seventh year in a row, the Rams do not have a first-round pick. That streak will end in 2024 if McVay and general manager Les Snead break from Rams tradition and refrain from trading it away.

Barring an unexpected move in the next few days that elevates the Rams into the first round, they enter the draft with a second-round pick (No. 36), two picks in the third round (Nos. 69 and 77), three in the fifth round (Nos. 167, 171 and 177), three in the sixth round (Nos. 182, 189 and 191) and two in the seventh (Nos. 223 and 234).

Five questions the Rams could answer in the draft:

Now that Snead and McVay all but acknowledged they erred by signing Allen Robinson before last season, will they draft receivers?

Receiver became even more of a pressing concern with the trade that sent Robinson to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Rams essentially paid the Steelers $10 million to take Robinson off their hands after only one season of unmet expectations.

The Rams still have star Cooper Kupp, who carries a salary-cap number of $27.8 million this season, the highest on a team that also features defensive tackle Aaron Donald and quarterback Matthew Stafford.

Kupp, a 2017 third-round pick who was the 2021 NFL offensive player of the year, caught 75 passes, six for touchdowns, before suffering an ankle injury that required surgery and sidelined him for the final eight games.

The Rams have not hit on drafting star receivers in the second round. Van Jefferson, a second-round pick in 2020, is in the final year of his contract. Tutu Atwell — McVay and Snead's apparent we're-smarter-than everyone-else pick in 2022 — showed promise last season after not catching a pass as a rookie.

Is this the year the Rams finally draft a quarterback?

The Rams haven't selected a quarterback since 2016, when they traded up 14 spots to select Jared Goff at No. 1. The Rams began their offseason program with Stafford, 35, as the only quarterback on the roster.

They will add several quarterbacks before on-field workouts begin in a few weeks, but it remains to be seen whether McVay does it through the draft.

Bryce Young, C.J. Stroud, Anthony Richardson and perhaps Kentucky quarterback Will Levis — who played for former Rams offensive coordinator Liam Coen at Kentucky — are among the quarterbacks expected to be gone by the Rams' first pick at No. 36.

But the San Francisco 49ers proved last season with Brock Purdy that a team can make a playoff run with a low-round, low-cost draft pick at quarterback. Purdy was the last player selected in the 2022 draft.

Don't the Rams still need help on the offensive line?

Uh, yes.

It's easy to point to injuries for the Rams' poor offensive line play last season but don't forget: The Buffalo Bills absolutely destroyed the Rams' healthy line in the opener while amassing seven sacks. It was not a very good line from the start.

Last year, the Rams used their first pick to select offensive lineman Logan Bruss in the third round. Bruss suffered a season-ending knee injury during the second preseason game but is expected to start this season.

Defensive lineman Aaron Donald cannot do it alone, right?

Donald, a three-time NFL defensive player of the year, elevates the performance of any lineman who plays with him. His impact as a player and role model is that great.

But the Rams did not re-sign Greg Gaines, have not re-signed A'Shawn Robinson and released edge rusher Leonard Floyd.

Marquise Copeland and Bobby Brown have been rotational players, and Earnest Jones IV played for the first time last season.

So the Rams will be looking for pass rushers and run-stoppers in the draft.

Can the Rams make up for the loss of cornerback Jalen Ramsey in the draft?

To save money, the Rams traded Ramsey to the Miami Dolphins.

Don't expect a rookie or rookies to offset the departure of a three-time All-Pro.

Second-year pro Cobie Durant showed last season he can make plays and Derion Kendrick got game experience.

With the departure of David Long, and Troy Hill still a free agent, rookies will get the opportunity to compete with Robert Rochell for playing time.

Those are only a few of the issues that must be solved by defensive coordinator Raheem Morris for a unit that features Donald, linebacker Jones and safety Jordan Fuller.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Garcia knocked out by Davis in seventh, takes first loss

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gervonta Davis delivered a stunning body shot in the seventh round, causing **Ryan Garcia** to stumble back and then go to a knee, ending one of boxing's most-anticipated matches in recent history with a knockout at 1:44 in a lightweight bout on Saturday in Las Vegas.

Davis improved to 29-0, with all but two of his victories by knockdown. It was the first defeat for Victorvile's Garcia, who won 19 of his first 23 fights by knockout.

Davis also sent Garcia to the mat with a roundhouse left in the second round and spent most of the rest of the fight working the body.

Garcia, a 24-year-old who lives in Los Angeles, landed two sharp rights to Davis' face in the sixth round. But then Davis came back in the seventh with a left that, at first, didn't appear to hurt Garcia much as he moved back. But then he went to a knee that prompted referee **Thomas Taylor** to call the bout.

ETC.

Pirates extend manager Shelton

Manager **Derek Shelton's** contract was extended by the Pittsburgh Pirates after the team's 14-7 start — its best since 1992.

Shelton's contract was set to expire after this season. The Pirates announced the new deal but did not specify a length.

Tampa Bay Rays left-hander **Jeffrey Springs** will have season-ending Tommy John surgery on Monday. ... Miami Marlins ace **Sandy Alcantara** was scratched from his scheduled start at Cleveland with biceps tendinitis, but the team said he is not expected to be placed on the injured list.

Top-ranked **Novak Djokovic** will miss the Madrid Open, apparently because of a fitness issue, the Spanish event said. Though no specific reason was given for Djokovic's withdrawal, he did discuss issues with his elbow recently. ... Defending champion **Iga Swiatek** will again play **Aryna Sabalenka** in the final of the Porsche Grand Prix after they came through their semifinals in Stuttgart, Germany. Swiatek advanced when **Ons Jabeur** retired with a left calf injury and Sabalenka earned a 6-1, 6-2 win over **Anastasia Potapova**. ... Defending champion **Carlos Alcaraz** eased into the final of the Barcelona Open after defeating **Daniel Evans** 6-2, 6-2. Alcaraz will face **Stefanos Tsitsipas**, who beat **Lorenzo Musetti** 6-4, 5-7, 6-3. ... **Botic van de Zandschulp** defeated **Taylor Fritz** 6-4, 7-6 (2) to move into the finals of the BMW Open in Munich against defending champion **Holger Rune**, who saved all eight break points he faced to beat Australia's **Christopher O'Connell** 6-3, 6-2. ... **Andrey Rublev** reached his second final in two weeks, at the Srpska Open, with a 6-2, 6-4 win over **Alex Molcan** in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Wrexham secured promotion to the fourth tier of English soccer, achieving the first part of the dream of celebrity owners **Ryan Reynolds** and **Rob McElhenney**.

The Hollywood actors were among a crowd of more than 10,000 at the Racecourse Ground in north Wales to see Wrexham clinch the National League title with a 3-1 win over Boreham Wood.

Denny Hamlin won the first superspeedway pole of his career at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway for Sunday's race. ... **Jeb Burton** won his second career Xfinity Series race at Talladega in a crash-fest that had two red-flag stoppages.

TENNIS RESULTS

$2.9-MILLION BARCELONA OPEN
At Barcelona, Spain
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (semifinals)—Stefanos Tsitsipas (2), Greece, d. Lorenzo Musetti (9), Italy, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3; Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, d. Daniel Evans (12), Britain, 6-2, 6-2.

DOUBLES (semifinals)—Maximo Gonzalez-Andres Molteni, Argentina, d. Harri Heliovaara, Finland-Lloyd Glasspool, Britain, 7-5, 4-6, 10-7; Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands-Neal Skupski (1), Britain, d. Rohan Bopanna, India-Matthew Ebden, Australia, 6-4, 7-5.

$780,637 PORSCHE GRAND PRIX
At Stuttgart, Germany
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (semifinals)—Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, d. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 6-1, 6-2; Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, d. Ons Jabeur, Tunisia, 3-0, retired

DOUBLES (semifinals)—Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Desirae Krawczyk (2), d. Alexa Guarachi Mathison, Chile-Erin Routliffe, New Zealand, 6-1, 7-5; Nicole Melichar-Martinez, and Giuliana Olmos (3), Mexico, d. Veronika Kudermetova-Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 6-4, 7-6 (2).

$612,000 BMW OPEN
At Munich, Germany
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (semifinals)—Holger Rune (1), Denmark, d. Christopher O'Connell, Australia, 6-3, 6-2; Botic Van de Zandschulp (4), Netherlands, d. Taylor Fritz (2), 6-4, 7-6 (2).

DOUBLES (semifinals)—Kevin Krawietz -Tim Puetz (1), Germany, d. Robin Haase, Netherlands-Philipp Oswald, Austria, 7-6 (8), 6-2; Lucas Miedler-Alexander Erler, Austria, d. Yuki Bhambri-Saketh Myneni, India, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

$612,000 BANJA LUKA OPEN
At Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (semifinals)—Andrey Rublev (2), Russia, d. Alex Molcan, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-4.

DOUBLES (finals)—Michael Venus, New Zealand-Jamie Murray (1), Britain, d. Aleksandr Nedovyesov, Kazakhstan-Francisco Cabral, Portugal, 7-5, 6-2.

BASEBALL

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Arizona	12	10	.545	–	5-5
DODGERS	11	11	.500	1	5-5
San Diego	11	12	.478	1½	4-6
San Francisco	7	13	.350	4	3-7
Colorado	6	16	.273	6	1-9
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Milwaukee	15	6	.714	–	7-3
Pittsburgh	15	7	.682	½	8-2
Chicago	12	8	.600	2½	6-4
St. Louis	8	13	.381	7	4-6
Cincinnati	7	14	.333	8	3-7
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	14	7	.667	–	7-3
New York	14	8	.636	½	8-2
Miami	12	9	.571	2	8-2
Philadelphia	10	12	.455	4½	6-4
Washington	7	13	.350	6½	4-6

Saturday's results

DODGERS 9, at Chicago 4
Washington 10, at Minnesota 4
at Philadelphia 4, Colorado 3
Miami 6, at Cleveland 1, 1st game
Miami 3, at Cleveland 2, 2nd game
at San Francisco 7, New York 4
at Pittsburgh 2, Cincinnati 1
at Milwaukee 5, Boston 4
Houston 6, at Atlanta 3
San Diego 5, at Arizona 3
at Seattle 5, St. Louis 4

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	13	7	.650	–	7-3
Houston	11	10	.524	2½	6-4
ANGELS	10	11	.476	3½	4-6
Seattle	10	11	.476	3½	6-4
Oakland	4	17	.190	9½	2-8
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Minnesota	11	10	.524	–	4-6
Cleveland	10	11	.476	1	3-7
Detroit	7	12	.368	3	5-5
Chicago	7	14	.333	4	2-8
Kansas City	5	16	.238	6	2-8
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	18	3	.857	–	7-3
Baltimore	13	7	.650	4½	8-2
New York	13	8	.619	5	6-4
Toronto	12	9	.571	6	5-5
Boston	11	11	.500	7½	6-4

Saturday's results

Kansas City 11, at ANGELS 8
at New York 3, Toronto 2
Washington 10, at Minnesota 4
Miami 6, at Cleveland 1, 1st game
Miami 3, at Cleveland 2, 2nd game
at Tampa Bay 4, Chicago 3, 10 innings
at Baltimore 5, Detroit 1
at Milwaukee 5, Boston 4
Houston 6, at Atlanta 3
at Texas 18, Oakland 3
at Seattle 5, St. Louis 4

TODAY'S GAMES

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
Dodgers/Kershaw (L)	3-1	2.52	11:15 a.m.
CHI/Stroman (R)	2-1	0.75	SNLA
COL/Ureña (R)	0-3	9.82	9 a.m.
PHI/Wheeler (R)	1-1	4.79	
CIN/Greene (R)	0-0	4.24	10:30 a.m.
PIT/Velasquez (R)	2-2	5.12	
SD/Darvish (R)	0-2	3.44	1 p.m.
ARI/Jameson (R)	2-0	2.25	
NY/Megill (R)	3-1	3.00	4 p.m.
SF/Stripling (R)	0-1	7.30	ESPN

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
KC/Lyles (R)	0-3	4.62	1 p.m.
Angels/Detmers (L)	0-1	4.50	BSW
DET/Boyd (L)	0-1	4.50	10:30 a.m.
BAL/Rodriguez (R)	0-0	6.91	
TOR/Gausman (R)	1-2	3.65	10:30 a.m.
NY/Schmidt (R)	0-1	8.79	
CHI/Giolito (R)	1-1	4.29	10:30 a.m.
TB/Eflin (R)	2-0	3.27	
OAK/Muller (L)	0-1	7.23	11:30 a.m.
TEX/deGrom (R)	1-0	3.48	

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
HOU/Javier (R)	2-0	3.68	10:30 a.m.
ATL/Fried (L)	1-0	1.08	MLB
Miami/Luzardo (L)	2-0	2.74	10:30 a.m.
CLE/Allen (L)	—	—	
BOS/Bello (R)	0-1	16.88	11 a.m.
MIL/Burnes (R)	2-1	4.76	
WAS/Corbin (L)	1-2	6.30	11 a.m.
MIN/Gray (R)	2-0	0.82	
STL/Flaherty (R)	1-2	2.95	1 p.m.
SEA/Flexen (R)	0-3	7.79	MLB*

* joined in progress

ODDS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at Chicago Cubs	OFF	DODGERS	OFF
at Philadelphia	-290	Colorado	+235
Cincinnati	OFF	at Pittsburgh	OFF
San Diego	-142	at Arizona	+120
N.Y. Mets	-118	at San Francisco	+100

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at ANGELS	-200	Kansas City	+168
at Baltimore	-166	Detroit	+140
Toronto	-134	at N.Y. Yankees	+114
at Tampa Bay	-155	Chicago White Sox	+135
at Texas	-310	Oakland	+250

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at Atlanta	-148	Houston	+126
at Cleveland	-115	Miami	-105
at Milwaukee	-172	Boston	+144
at Minnesota	OFF	Washington	OFF
at Seattle	-164	St. Louis	+138

LEADERS

Through Friday

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Arraez, Miami	18	64	7	28	.438
Nimmo, New York	20	72	13	27	.375
Acuña, Atlanta	20	84	19	31	.369
Hoerner, Chicago	19	85	17	31	.365
Marsh, Philadelphia	19	62	12	22	.355
Bogaerts, San Diego	22	83	14	29	.349
Stott, Philadelphia	21	93	6	32	.344

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Chapman, Toronto	19	71	13	27	.380
Bichette, Toronto	20	86	12	30	.349
Guerrero, Toronto	20	78	15	27	.346
Dubón, Houston	16	67	14	23	.343
Verdugo, Boston	21	82	17	28	.341
Arozarena, Tampa Bay	19	75	15	25	.333
Rizzo, New York	19	68	10	22	.324

DODGERS 9
CUBS 4

Streak	Won 1	This month	10-10
Home	6-6	Road	5-5
Division	7-6	Interleague	0-0

Next: Today at Chicago Cubs, 11:15 a.m.
TV/Radio: SportsNet LA/570, 1020

Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Betts 2b-rf	5	1	1	0	.257
Freemn 1b	5	1	2	0	.294
Muncy 3b	4	2	2	3	.254
Martinez dh	3	2	1	0	.250
Heywrd rf	4	1	0	0	.171
Outmn cf	5	2	4	4	.314
Peralta lf	2	0	0	0	.227
a-Vargs 2b	3	0	1	1	.211
Taylor ss	3	0	0	0	.111
Barnes c	4	0	0	0	.034
Totals	38	9	11	8	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hoerner 2b	5	2	2	2	.367
Swanson ss	4	0	0	0	.315
Happ lf	2	0	1	0	.307
Suzuki rf	3	1	0	1	.333
Bellinger cf	3	0	0	0	.289
Wisdm 3b	4	0	0	0	.257
Hosmer 1b	2	0	1	1	.250
b-Mdrigl 3b	2	0	1	0	.324
Mancini dh	4	0	0	0	.232
Barnhart c	2	0	0	0	.200
c-Ríos	0	1	0	0	.063
Torrens c	1	0	0	0	.313
Totals	32	4	5	4	

Dodgers	110 101 203 –9	11	0
Chicago	100 100 200 –4	5	1

a-singled for Peralta in the 6th. b-pinch hit for Hosmer in the 6th. c-walked for Barnhart in the 7th.

Strikeouts—Dodgers 8: Betts 1, Freeman 1, Muncy 1, Vargas 1, Taylor 1, Barnes 3. Chicago 12: Hoerner 1, Swanson 1, Happ 1, Suzuki 1, Bellinger 1, Wisdom 2, Hosmer 1, Madrigal 1, Mancini 2, Torrens 1. **E**—Wisdom (2). **LOB**—Dodgers 7, Chicago 7. **2B**—Freeman (5), Martinez (9), Hosmer (3). **HR**—Outman (6), off Wesneski; Muncy (9), off Leiter Jr.; Muncy (10), off Boxberger; Outman (7), off Boxberger; Hoerner (2), off Almonte. **RBIs**—Outman 4 (19), Vargas (4), Muncy 3 (19), Suzuki (5), Hosmer (11), Hoerner 2 (11).

Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
May, W, 2-1	5⅓	2	2	2	3	6	96	3.07
Vesia, H, 1	⅔	0	0	0	1	1	13	9.95
Almonte	1	2	2	2	1	2	24	7.56
Ferguson, H, 1	1	1	0	0	0	1	11	2.16
Miller	1	0	0	0	0	2	15	1.80
Chicago	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Wesneski, L, 1-1	4⅓	5	3	3	1	1	64	6.23
Hughes	1	1	1	1	1	2	19	2.25
Rucker	⅔	1	0	0	0	2	14	2.89
Leiter Jr.	1	2	2	2	1	1	24	2.16
Alzolay	1	0	0	0	1	1	19	2.53
Boxberger	⅔	2	3	3	1	0	17	4.50
Merryweather	⅓	0	0	0	0	1	5	8.31

HBP—May (Suzuki). **PB**—Barnes (2).
T—2:55. **Tickets sold**—35,076 (41,363).

PHILLIES 4
ROCKIES 3

Nick Castellanos, whose power outage was a thorny topic for the team, hit his first two home runs of the season and Cristian Pache also went deep for the first time in 2023 to lead Philadelphia.

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Blackmon rf	3	1	0	0	.271
Profar lf	5	0	1	1	.194
Bryant dh	1	0	0	0	.288
a-Mntro dh	1	0	0	0	.255
b-Mstaks dh	1	0	0	1	.172
Cron 1b	4	0	2	0	.257
Díaz c	4	0	2	0	.333
1-Serven c	0	0	0	0	.214
McMhn 3b	4	1	0	0	.237
Daza cf	4	0	2	1	.264
Trejo 2b	4	1	1	0	.250
Tovar ss	3	0	0	0	.172
c-Castro	1	0	0	0	.171
Totals	35	3	8	3	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Turner ss	4	0	0	0	.295
Bohm 1b	4	0	1	0	.305
Schwrbr dh	4	0	0	0	.205
Cstllnos rf	4	2	3	2	.310
Realmuto c	4	0	0	0	.257
Sosa 3b	3	0	0	0	.316
Harrison 2b	3	0	0	0	.231
Marsh cf	2	1	1	0	.359
Pache lf	3	1	2	2	.300
Totals	31	4	7	4	

Colorado	001 110 000 –3	8	1
Philadelphia	012 001 00x –4	7	1

a-struck out for Bryant in the 3rd. b-sacrificed for Montero in the 5th. c-lined out for Tovar in the 9th. 1-ran for Díaz in the 8th.

Walks—Colorado 2: Blackmon 2. Philadelphia 1: Marsh 1. **Strikeouts**—Colorado 11: Profar 2, Bryant 1, Montero 1, Cron 2, Díaz 2, McMahon 2, Tovar 1. Philadelphia 10: Turner 2, Bohm 2, Schwarber 2, Sosa 3, Pache 1. **E**—Trejo (2), Bohm (3). **LOB**—Colorado 8, Philadelphia 4. **2B**—Cron (3), Daza (6), Bohm (3), Castellanos (10). **3B**—Marsh (4). **HR**—Castellanos 2 (2), off Freeland; Pache (1), off Freeland. **RBIs**—Profar (6), Daza (6), Moustakas (7), Castellanos 2 (13), Pache 2 (3). **SF**—Moustakas. **RISP**—Colorado 0 for 10; Philadelphia 0 for 5. **Runners moved up**—McMahon, Profar.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Freeland, L, 2-2	6	5	4	4	1	6	89	4.28
Bard	1	1	0	0	0	2	20	0.00
Bird	1	1	0	0	0	2	16	4.61
Philadelphia	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Sánchez	4⅓	5	3	3	2	5	73	6.23
Brogdon, W, 1-0	1⅔	1	0	0	0	2	31	2.45
Soto, H, 4	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.86
Domínguez, H, 2	1	2	0	0	0	2	20	8.31
Kimbrel, S, 2-2	1	0	0	0	0	1	8	5.00

Inherited runners-scored—Brogdon 2-1. **WP**—Sánchez.
U—Tony Randazzo, Todd Tichenor, Brian Knight, Alex Tosi. **T**—2:26. **Tickets sold**—41,939 (42,901).

RAYS 4
WHITE SOX 3

Randy Arozarena homered in the first inning as Tampa Bay (18-3) set a major league record by going deep in each of its first 21 games, then singled in the 10th that gave the Rays the victory.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Andrus ss	5	0	1	0	.216
Robert Jr. cf	4	0	0	0	.233
Vaughn 1b	4	0	0	0	.257
Jiménez rf	4	1	1	1	.200
Burger 3b	3	0	0	0	.250
Benintendi lf	4	0	1	0	.284
Grandal dh	3	1	1	1	.281
1-Colás dh	0	0	0	0	.233
Zavala c	4	0	0	0	.250
González 2b	2	0	0	0	.115
a-Sheets	1	1	1	1	.333
Sosa 2b	1	0	0	0	.161
Totals	35	3	5	3	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Díaz 1b	4	2	3	0	.310
Paredes 1b	1	0	0	0	.215
Franco ss	4	0	1	0	.288
Arozarena lf	5	1	3	4	.350
B.Lowe 2b	4	0	0	0	.271
Ramírez dh	4	0	2	0	.382
Walls 3b	2	0	0	0	.333
J.Lowe rf	4	0	0	0	.345
Margot cf	4	0	0	0	.200
Mejía c	4	0	0	0	.242
2-Bruján	0	1	0	0	.250
Totals	36	4	9	4	

Chicago	010 010 010 0 _ 3	5	1
Tampa Bay	200 010 000 1 _ 4	9	0

One out when winning run scored. a-homered for González in the 8th. 1-ran for Grandal in the 10th. 2-ran for Mejía in the 10th.

Walks—Chicago 2: Burger 1, Grandal 1. Tampa Bay 2: Franco 1, Walls 1. **Strikeouts**—Chicago 15: Andrus 1, Robert Jr. 4, Vaughn 1, Jiménez 1, Burger 3, Grandal 1, Zavala 1, González 2, Sosa 1. Tampa Bay 11: Franco 1, Arozarena 1, B.Lowe 3, Ramírez 2, Walls 1, Margot 1, Mejía 2. **E**—Middleton (1). **LOB**—Chicago 5, Tampa Bay 8. **3B**—Ramírez (1). **HR**—Jiménez (2), off McClanahan; Grandal (2), off McClanahan; Sheets (2), off Adam; Arozarena (5), off Cease. **RBIs**—Jiménez (6), Grandal (7), Sheets (7), Arozarena 4 (22). **SB**—Walls (2). **CS**—Franco (3).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cease	4	6	3	3	1	5	101	2.73
Middleton	1	1	0	0	0	2	17	1.69
Santos	2	1	0	0	0	1	21	2.45
Graveman	1	0	0	0	0	2	13	4.15
López	1	0	0	0	0	1	16	8.38
Lambert, L, 1-1	⅓	1	1	0	1	0	3	3.27
Tampa Bay	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
McClanahan	6	3	2	2	1	10	88	1.86
Poche, H, 3	1	1	0	0	0	1	12	1.23
Adam, BS, 0-1	1	1	1	1	0	2	18	2.45
Fairbanks	1	0	0	0	1	1	16	0.00
Cleavinger, W, 1-0	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	1.04

IBB—by Lambert (Franco). **HBP**—Cease (Walls).
T—2:53. **Tickets sold**—22,333 (25,025).

BREWERS 5
RED SOX 4

Rowdy Tellez continued to torment Boston, homering for the second straight game in Milwaukee's win. Tellez has 14 homers and 29 RBIs in 37 games against the Red Sox.

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Verdugo rf	4	0	0	0	.326
Turner 1b	4	1	2	0	.272
Refsnyder lf	1	0	0	0	.214
a-Duran lf-cf	2	0	0	0	.368
Devers 3b	4	1	2	2	.264
Herndndz cf	4	0	0	0	.221
Yoshida dh	4	0	2	0	.213
Arroyo 2b	2	1	1	0	.189
b-Tapia lf	2	0	0	0	.182
Wong c	2	0	0	0	.167
c-McGuire c	2	0	0	0	.361
Chang ss	3	1	1	2	.111
Totals	34	4	8	4	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Yelich lf	4	2	2	1	.247
Winker dh	3	0	0	0	.227
Adames ss	4	0	3	0	.278
Tellez 1b	4	1	1	2	.242
Contreras c	4	1	1	0	.311
Anderson 3b	3	0	1	1	.264
Turang 2b	3	0	0	0	.250
Wiemer cf	3	0	0	0	.197
Perkins rf	3	1	1	0	.333
Totals	31	5	9	4	

Boston	000 022 000 –4	8	0
Milwaukee	012 020 00x –5	9	0

a-struck out for Refsnyder in the 6th. b-grounded out for Arroyo in the 7th. c-grounded out for Wong in the 7th.

Walks—Boston 1: Refsnyder 1. Milwaukee 1: Anderson 1. **Strikeouts**—Boston 7: Duran 2, Devers 1, Hernández 1, Yoshida 1, Wong 1, Chang 1. Milwaukee 4: Anderson 1, Turang 2, Perkins 1. **LOB**—Boston 4, Milwaukee 4. **2B**—Devers (7), Turner (5), Contreras (4), Anderson (4), Yelich (3). **HR**—Chang (3), off Miley; Devers (8), off Payamps; Tellez (7), off Whitlock. **RBIs**—Chang 2 (8), Devers 2 (20), Anderson (16), Tellez 2 (17), Yelich (9). **SB**—Yelich (5). **Runners moved up**—Tapia, Turang, Tellez. **GIDP**—Wiemer, Tellez. **DP**—Boston 2 (Devers, Arroyo, Turner; Turner, Chang).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Whitlock, L, 1-2	4	8	5	5	1	1	81	6.19
Bleier	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	7.56
Schreiber	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	1.80
Crawford	2	1	0	0	0	2	34	3.98
Milwaukee	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Miley, W, 3-1	5	4	2	2	1	3	80	1.96
Payamps, H, 2	1	2	2	2	0	1	28	4.00
Strzelecki, H, 6	1⅓	1	0	0	0	0	14	0.90
Milner, H, 3	⅔	0	0	0	0	2	10	2.70
Williams, S, 3-3	1	1	0	0	0	1	14	0.00

Inherited runners-scored—Bleier 3-1, Milner 1-0. **HBP**—Whitlock (Winker).
U—Doug Eddings, Lance Barrett, Charlie Ramos, Alfonso Marquez. **T**—2:23. **Tickets sold**—31,965 (41,700).

ROYALS 11
ANGELS 8

Streak	Lost 1	This month	10-10
Home	4-4	Road	6-7
Division	4-2	Interleague	1-1

Next: Today vs. Kansas City at Angel Stadium, 1
TV/Radio: BS West/830, 1330

Kan. City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Witt Jr. ss	5	0	1	1	.256
Olivrs dh	5	1	1	1	.236
Pqtno 1b	4	1	0	0	.254
Perez c	4	2	1	0	.228
Duffy 2b	4	3	3	1	.394
Mlndz rf	4	1	2	2	.169
Dozier 3b	5	1	3	3	.196
Brdly Jr. lf	0	0	0	0	.129
Eaton lf	2	0	0	0	.040
a-Lopz 3b	1	1	0	1	.171
Isbel cf	4	1	1	0	.193
Totals	38	11	12	10	

Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Rengifo lf	4	1	1	0	.204
Phillips lf	0	0	0	0	.000
b-Ward	1	0	0	0	.225
Trout cf	5	1	2	3	.306
Ohtani dh	5	0	0	0	.250
Rendon 3b	4	0	0	0	.217
Renfroe rf	4	3	3	2	.288
Urshela 1b	4	0	1	0	.296
Drury 2b	4	1	1	0	.182
Thaiss c	4	2	2	2	.125
Neto ss	4	0	2	1	.185
Totals	39	8	12	8	

Kansas City	001 203 005 –11	12	0
Angels	001 122 020 – 8	12	2

a-pinch hit for Eaton in the 6th. b-struck out for Phillips in the 9th.

Walks—Kansas City 2: Perez 1, Duffy 1. **Strikeouts**—Kansas City 3: Witt Jr. 1, Olivares 1, Pasquantino 1. Angels 9: Ward 1, Trout 2, Rendon 1, Renfroe 1, Urshela 1, Drury 2, Neto 1. **E**—Urshela (2), Renfroe (1). **LOB**—Kansas City 5, Angels 4. **2B**—Perez (6), Duffy 2 (2), Isbel (5), Renfroe (6). **3B**—Melendez (1). **HR**—Renfroe (5), off Greinke; Trout (4), off Greinke; Renfroe (6), off Hernández; Thaiss (1), off Cuas. **RBIs**—Witt Jr. (8), Duffy (4), Melendez 2 (9), Dozier 3 (5), Lopez (5), Isbel (5), Olivares (5), Trout 3 (12), Renfroe 2 (18), Neto (1), Thaiss 2 (2). **Runners moved up**—Isbel, Melendez.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Greinke	5	7	4	4	0	2	71	4.61
Hernández, BS, 0-1	1	3	2	2	0	1	20	8.64
Chapman	1	0	0	0	0	2	12	0.00
Cuas, W, 1-0	1	2	2	2	0	2	13	6.75
Barlow, S, 2-3	1	0	0	0	0	2	12	8.22
Angels	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Anderson	5⅓	7	6	5	0	1	64	7.20
Wantz, BS, 0-2	1⅔	1	0	0	0	2	22	0.00
Moore	1	1	0	0	0	0	16	1.80
Quijada, L, 0-1, BS, 4-5	⅔	2	5	5	2	0	27	5.19
Warren	⅓	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.00

Inherited runners-scored—Wantz 3-3, Warren 3-2. **HBP**—Anderson (Pasquantino), Quijada 2 (Lopez,Melendez). **WP**—Anderson.
U—Mark Ripperger, Shane Livensparger, Dan Bellino, Phil Cuzzi. **T**—2:40. **Tickets sold**—44,148 (45,517).

MARLINS 6
GUARDIANS 1

Luis Arraez had a two-run single and Bryan De La Cruz hit a solo homer to lead Miami in the doubleheader's first game. Shane Bieber (1-1) matched his career high in issuing four walks.

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Chshm Jr. cf	4	0	0	0	.222
Soler dh	3	1	0	0	.254
Arraez 2b	4	1	1	2	.426
De La Cruz lf	3	2	2	1	.306
García rf	4	0	1	1	.163
Segura 3b	4	1	2	0	.206
Gurriel 1b	2	0	1	1	.278
Stallings c	4	0	0	1	.143
Berti ss	3	1	0	0	.213
Totals	31	6	7	6	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Kwan lf	3	0	0	0	.237
Rosario ss	4	1	1	0	.224
Ramírez 3b	4	0	0	0	.256
Bell dh	4	0	1	1	.194
Gonzalez rf	3	0	0	0	.146
Giménez 2b	3	0	0	0	.267
Zunino c	2	0	0	0	.275
Naylor 1b	3	0	1	0	.161
Straw cf	3	0	1	0	.292
Totals	29	1	4	1	

Miami	020 001 300 –6	7	0
Cleveland	000 100 000 –1	4	1

Walks—Miami 7: Soler 2, Arraez 1, De La Cruz 1, Gurriel 2, Berti 1. Cleveland 2: Kwan 1, Zunino 1. **Strikeouts**—Miami 5: Chisholm Jr. 1, Soler 2, De La Cruz 1, Segura 1. Cleveland 7: Rosario 1, Bell 1, Gonzalez 2, Giménez 1, Zunino 1, Naylor 1. **E**—Rosario (5). **LOB**—Miami 6, Cleveland 3. **2B**—Segura (1), De La Cruz (2), Bell (7). **HR**—De La Cruz (2), off Bieber. **RBIs**—Gurriel (3), Stallings (2), De La Cruz (8), Arraez 2 (9), García (2), Bell (9). **CS**—Arraez (1). **S**—Chisholm Jr.. **Runners left in scoring position**—Miami 2 (Chisholm Jr., Stallings); Cleveland 1 (Giménez). **RISP**—Miami 3 for 8; Cleveland 0 for 3. **GIDP**—Segura, Arraez, Straw.

DP—Miami 2 (Gurriel, Stallings, Chisholm Jr., Stallings, Chisholm Jr.; Berti, Arraez, Gurriel); Cleveland 2 (Rosario, Giménez, Naylor; Rosario, Giménez, Naylor).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Smeltzer	4	3	1	1	1	3	65	9.00
Nardi, W, 2-1	1⅓	0	0	0	0	2	17	3.72
Brazoban, H, 2	1⅔	0	0	0	0	2	19	3.29
Barnes	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	2.35
Okert	1	0	0	0	1	0	15	0.00
Cleveland	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Bieber, L, 1-1	5⅔	4	3	3	4	4	103	3.23
Sandlin	⅓	0	1	1	2	0	16	5.00
Herrin	⅓	2	2	2	1	0	19	7.88
De Los Santos	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	4	1.23
Gaddis	2	0	0	0	0	1	19	6.86

Inherited runners-scored—Sandlin 1-0, Herrin 1-1, De Los Santos 2-1. **WP**—Smeltzer. **PB**—Zunino (1).
U—Ryan Additon, Brian Walsh, Lance Barksdale, Will Little. **T**—2:28.

PIRATES 2
REDS 1

Ke'Bryan Hayes hit a key triple and veteran Rich Hill navigated through five innings as streaking Pittsburgh won its sixth straight game. Bryan Reynolds added two doubles and a sacrifice fly.

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
India 2b	5	1	1	0	.307
Steer 3b	4	0	1	0	.300
Fairchild lf-rf	3	0	2	0	.226
T.Stphnsn dh	4	0	1	0	.260
Myers 1b	4	0	0	0	.203
Newman ss	4	0	0	0	.200
Senzel rf-cf	4	0	0	0	.152
Barrero cf	2	0	2	0	.255
Maile c	0	0	0	0	.188
b-Fraley	1	0	0	0	.211
Casali c	1	0	0	0	.227
a-Friedl lf	2	0	1	0	.306
Totals	34	1	8	0	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hayes 3b	4	1	2	0	.226
Reynolds lf	3	0	2	1	.294
Joe 1b	3	0	0	0	.357
Santana dh	4	1	1	0	.253
Suwinski rf	4	0	1	1	.244
Castro ss	3	0	0	0	.273
Bae cf	3	0	0	0	.217
Marcano 2b	3	0	2	0	.308
Hedges c	2	0	0	0	.167
Totals	29	2	8	2	

Cincinnati	000 010 000 –1	8	0
Pittsburgh	100 100 00x –2	8	1

a-singled for Casali in the 6th. b-grounded out for Maile in the 8th.

Walks—Cincinnati 4: Steer 1, Fairchild 1, Barrero 1, Casali 1. **Strikeouts**—Cincinnati 12: India 3, Steer 2, Fairchild 1, T.Stephenson 2, Myers 3, Casali 1. Pittsburgh 9: Hayes 1, Reynolds 1, Joe 1, Suwinski 3, Castro 1, Bae 1, Hedges 1. **E**—Bae (3). **LOB**—Cincinnati 10, Pittsburgh 6. **2B**—Marcano (2), Santana (8), Suwinski (2), Reynolds 2 (5). **3B**—Hayes (2). **RBIs**—Reynolds (18), Suwinski (11). **SB**—Barrero (2). **CS**—Barrero (2). **SF**—Reynolds. **S**—Hedges. **Runners left in scoring position**—Cincinnati 5 (India 2, Myers 2, Newman); Pittsburgh 5 (Suwinski, Joe 2, Bae, Reynolds). **RISP**—Cincinnati 0 for 8; Pittsburgh 1 for 8. **Runners moved up**—Castro. **GIDP**—Hedges. **DP**—Cincinnati 1 (India, Myers).

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cessa, L, 0-3	4⅔	6	2	2	0	4	62	10.80
Farmer	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	8	4.82
Young	1⅓	0	0	0	0	3	17	0.90
Sims	⅔	1	0	0	0	1	15	0.00
Díaz	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	10	4.50
Pittsburgh	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Hill, W, 2-2	5	6	1	1	3	7	96	4.85
Ramirez, H, 1	2	2	0	0	1	4	42	2.25
Underwood Jr., S, 2-2	2	0	0	0	0	1	22	3.48

HBP—Díaz (Joe).
U—Cory Blaser, Emil Jimenez, Carlos Torres, Jansen Visconti. **T**—2:20. **Tickets sold**—12,575 (38,753).

ASTROS 6
BRAVES 3

Yordan Álvarez and Kyle Tucker each hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning off Kyle Wright, with Tucker's blast after Vaughn Grissom's second error of the game giving Houston a 4-1 lead.

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Dubón 2b	5	1	1	0	.333
Brgmn 3b	4	1	1	0	.232
Alvarez dh	5	1	1	2	.257
J.Abreu 1b	5	1	1	1	.250
Tucker rf	5	1	1	2	.288
Peña ss	4	1	3	0	.226
Julks lf	4	0	2	1	.315
Meyers cf	4	0	1	0	.250
Mldnado c	4	0	0	0	.170
Totals	40	6	11	6	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Acuña Jr. rf	4	0	2	0	.375
Olson 1b	4	1	1	0	.265
Riley 3b	4	0	0	0	.278
Murphy c	4	1	1	1	.250
Albies 2b	4	1	2	2	.253
Grissom ss	4	0	2	0	.300
Pillar lf	3	0	0	0	.200
a-Rosario	1	0	0	0	.189
Ozuna dh	3	0	0	0	.078
b-Hilliard	1	0	0	0	.324
White cf	3	0	0	0	.071
Totals	35	3	8	3	

Houston	000 004 011 –6	11	0
Atlanta	000 102 000 –3	8	3

a-struck out for Pillar in the 9th. b-struck out for Ozuna in the 9th.

Walks—Houston 1: Bregman 1.

Strikeouts—Houston 7: Dubón 1, Alvarez 1, J.Abreu 1, Tucker 2, Meyers 1, Maldonado 1. Atlanta 12: Olson 3, Murphy 2, Albies 1, Pillar 2, Rosario 1, Hilliard 1, White 2.

E—Grissom 2 (3), Albies (1). **LOB**—Houston 8, Atlanta 5. **HR**—Alvarez (6), off Wright; Tucker (5), off Wright; Murphy (5), off Valdez; Albies (5), off Valdez. **RBIs**—Alvarez 2 (25), Tucker 2 (17), Julks (6), J.Abreu (10), Murphy (15), Albies 2 (18). **SB**—Acuña Jr. 3 (11), Peña (6).

Runners left in scoring position—Houston 3 (Meyers, J.Abreu, Tucker); Atlanta 3 (Murphy, Pillar, Olson). **RISP**—Houston 3 for 7; Atlanta 0 for 5. **GIDP**—Maldonado.

DP—Atlanta 1 (Grissom, Albies, Olson).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Valdez, W, 2-2	7	8	3	3	0	9	90	2.25
Montero, H, 1	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	3.00
B.Abreu, S, 1-2	1	0	0	0	0	2	15	0.79
Atlanta	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Wright, L, 0-1	5	7	4	3	1	2	95	5.93
Tonkin	2	0	0	0	0	2	17	3.09
Yates	1	2	1	1	0	2	12	4.70
Jiménez	1	2	1	0	0	1	20	2.57

Inherited runners-scored—Tonkin 1-0. **PB**—Murphy (1).
U—CB Bucknor, Chris Segal, Ben May, Jeff Nelson. **T**—2:22. **Tickets sold**—42,399 (41,149).

MARINERS 5
CARDINALS 4

Teoscar Hernández and Jarred Kelenic each hit their fifth home runs of the season and Eugenio Suárez stroked a crucial two-run single to break a 3-3 tie in the seventh inning to lead Seattle.

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Nootbaar rf	4	1	1	0	.200
Burleson dh	4	1	2	0	.267
Gldsmdt 1b	4	0	0	0	.280
Arenado 3b	4	0	1	1	.289
Contreras c	4	1	2	1	.279
Gorman 2b	3	0	1	1	.302
O'Neill lf	4	0	0	0	.258
Carlson cf	4	0	0	0	.214
Edman ss	4	1	2	1	.275
Totals	35	4	9	4	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Rodríguez cf	4	0	0	0	.250
France 1b	3	0	0	0	.289
Suárez 3b	4	0	1	2	.268
Raleigh c	4	1	1	0	.238
Hernández rf	4	1	1	2	.256
Kelenic lf	4	1	2	1	.323
Pollock dh	4	0	1	0	.143
Wong 2b	2	1	0	0	.094
Crawford ss	2	1	1	0	.237
Totals	31	5	7	5	

St. Louis	102 000 001 –4	9	0
Seattle	010 002 20x –5	7	0

Walks—St. Louis 2: Nootbaar 1, Gorman 1. Seattle 3: France 1, Wong 1, Crawford 1. **Strikeouts**—St. Louis 15: Nootbaar 3, Burleson 1, Goldschmidt 1, Arenado 3, Contreras 1, Gorman 1, O'Neill 2, Carlson 3. Seattle 7: France 1, Suárez 1, Raleigh 1, Hernández 1, Kelenic 1, Pollock 2. **LOB**—St. Louis 7, Seattle 5. **2B**—Contreras (6), Gorman (5), Pollock (2), Kelenic (6). **HR**—Edman (3), off Sewald; Kelenic (5), off Mikolas; Hernández (5), off Mikolas. **RBIs**—Arenado (14), Contreras (10), Gorman (19), Edman (8), Kelenic (12), Hernández 2 (13), Suárez 2 (15). **SB**—Edman (2). **Runners left in scoring position**—St. Louis 4 (O'Neill 3, Goldschmidt); Seattle 2 (Wong, Rodríguez). **RISP**—St. Louis 2 for 8; Seattle 1 for 7.

Runners moved up—France. **GIDP**—Gorman.

DP—Seattle 1 (Suárez, Crawford, France).

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mikolas	5⅓	5	3	3	2	4	93	7.46
Thompson, L, 1-1	⅔	1	2	2	1	1	16	1.80
Gallegos	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	19	0.00
Cabrera	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	6	3.52
Seattle	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
L.Castillo	5	7	3	3	2	8	100	1.52
Murfee	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.16
Brash, W, 2-2	1	0	0	0	0	3	20	5.59
Topa, H, 4	1	1	0	0	0	1	9	0.00
Sewald, S, 6-6	1	1	1	1	0	2	13	3.00

Inherited runners-scored—Gallegos 2-2. **HBP**—Brash (Burleson).
U—Gabe Morales, Dan Iassogna, Adam Beck, Clint Vondrak. **T**—2:29. **Tickets sold**—38,732 (47,929).

MARLINS 3
GUARDIANS 2

Garrett Hampson drove in two runs and Luis Arraez and Bryan De La Cruz each had three hits as Miami completed the doubleheader sweep behind Braxton Garrett's 5⅔ workmanlike innings.

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Chism Jr. cf	3	0	0	0	.213
García lf	2	0	0	0	.157
Cooper 1b	4	0	1	1	.310
Arraez 2b	4	0	3	0	.444
Soler dh	5	0	0	0	.235
DLCruz lf	5	0	3	0	.328
Sánchez rf	4	0	0	0	.148
Berti 3b	2	1	1	0	.222
Fortes c	3	1	1	0	.171
Hmpsn ss	4	1	2	2	.273
Totals	36	3	11	3	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Kwan lf	5	0	2	1	.247
Straw cf	4	1	0	0	.275
Ramírez dh	4	0	1	0	.256
Bell 1b	3	0	1	0	.200
Gonzalez rf	4	0	2	1	.173
Giménez 2b	3	0	0	0	.256
Arias ss	3	0	1	0	.188
Freeman 3b	3	1	0	0	.286
Gallagher c	2	0	0	0	.111
1-Brennan	0	0	0	0	.256
Viloria c	0	0	0	0	.000
a-Rosario	1	0	0	0	.221
Totals	32	2	7	2	

Miami	000 102 000 –3	11	0
Cleveland	100 000 100 –2	7	0

a-struck out for Viloria in the 9th. 1-ran for Gallagher in the 7th.

Walks—Miami 4: Arraez 1, Sánchez 1, Berti 1, Fortes 1. Cleveland 4: Bell 1, Arias 1, Freeman 1, Gallagher 1.

Strikeouts—Miami 6: Chisholm Jr. 2, Cooper 1, Soler 1, Sánchez 1, Fortes 1. Cleveland 6: Kwan 2, Bell 1, Arias 1, Gallagher 1, Rosario 1.

LOB—Miami 12, Cleveland 8. **2B**—De La Cruz 3 (5), Arraez (5), Hampson (2), Berti (3), Gonzalez (1). **RBIs**—Hampson 2 (4), Cooper (11), Gonzalez (3), Kwan (11). **SB**—Hampson (2), De La Cruz (1). **SF**—Cooper. **S**—Berti.

Runners left in scoring position—Miami 10 (Sánchez 2, Hampson 4, Soler, Chisholm Jr., De La Cruz 2); Cleveland 4 (Giménez 3, Kwan). **RISP**_Miami 2 for 13; Cleveland 2 for 8.

Runners moved up—Fortes. **LIDP**—Gonzalez. **GIDP**—Straw.

DP—Miami 2 (Hampson, Arraez, Cooper; Cooper).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Garrett, W, 1-0	5⅔	5	1	1	1	3	82	2.84
Scott, H, 2	⅔	1	1	1	2	1	21	5.00
Floro, H, 5	1⅔	1	0	0	0	1	13	0.00
Puk, S, 4-4	1	0	0	0	1	1	21	1.00
Cleveland	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Plesac, L, 1-1	5	10	3	3	2	5	90	6.50
Karinchak	1	0	0	0	1	0	13	4.91
Morgan	2	1	0	0	1	1	26	0.00
Clase	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.45

Inherited runners-scored—Scott 2-0, Floro 2-0, Karinchak 2-1. **IBB**—by Karinchak (Arraez). **HBP**—Puk (Giménez).
U—Dan Merzel, Lance Barksdale, Will Little, Brian Walsh. **T**—2:36. **Tickets sold**—14,478 (34,788).

YANKEES 3
BLUE JAYS 2

Gerrit Cole pitched scoreless ball after a chirpy buildup, Anthony Volpe struck a two-run homer and pinch-hitter DJ LeMahieu hit a walkoff bases-loaded single in the ninth to lead the Yankees.

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Springer rf	4	0	1	0	.209
Bichette ss	4	0	1	0	.344
Guro Jr. 1b	3	0	1	0	.346
Chapman 3b	4	0	0	0	.360
Varsho cf	4	0	1	0	.222
Kirk c	2	1	1	0	.261
Belt dh	3	0	0	0	.174
a-Jansen dh	1	1	1	2	.139
Merrifield lf	4	0	1	0	.309
Espinal 2b	0	0	0	0	.114
1-Biggio 2b	3	0	0	0	.111
Totals	32	2	7	2	

New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Volpe ss	4	1	1	2	.200
Judge cf	4	0	0	0	.257
Rizzo 1b	4	0	1	0	.319
2-K.-Falefa	0	1	0	0	.161
Torres 2b	4	0	2	0	.254
Calhoun dh	3	0	0	0	.136
F.Cordero rf	3	0	0	0	.186
b-LeMahieu	1	0	1	1	.250
Trevino c	3	0	0	0	.205
Cabrera lf	3	0	1	0	.238
Peraza 3b	2	1	1	0	.250
Totals	31	3	7	3	

Toronto	000 000 002 –2	7	1
New York	000 000 021 –3	7	0

No outs when winning run scored. a-homered for Belt in the 9th. b-singled for F.Cordero in the 9th. 1-ran for Espinal in the 2nd. 2-ran for Rizzo in the 9th.

Walks—Toronto 4: Springer 1, Guerrero Jr. 1, Kirk 2. New York 2: Calhoun 1, Peraza 1. **Strikeouts**—Toronto 6: Springer 1, Chapman 2, Varsho 1, Belt 2. New York 5: Volpe 1, Judge 1, Calhoun 2, Trevino 1. **E**—Kirk (2). **LOB**—Toronto 8, New York 6. **2B**—Guerrero Jr. (2), Kirk (1), Bichette (5), Cabrera (3), Rizzo (4). **HR**—Jansen (1), off Peralta; Volpe (2), off García. **RBIs**—Jansen 2 (6), Volpe 2 (4), LeMahieu (8). **SB**—Cabrera (4), Peraza (1), Varsho (4). **CS**—Springer (1). **Runners left in scoring position**—Toronto 6 (Belt 2, Varsho 3, Springer); New York 2 (Judge 2). **DP**—New York 1 (Torres, Volpe, Rizzo).

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Manoah	7	2	0	0	1	5	85	5.13
García	1	2	2	2	0	0	15	7.20
Romano, L, 2-1	0	3	1	1	1	0	11	3.86
New York	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Cole	5⅔	4	0	0	2	4	96	0.79
Marinaccio	1	0	0	0	1	0	14	0.93
Holmes	1	1	0	0	0	2	18	4.15
Peralta	⅔	2	2	2	1	0	19	3.38
J.Cordero, W, 1-0	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	3	2.45

Inherited runners-scored—Marinaccio 2-0, Peralta 1-0, J.Cordero 1-0. **HBP**—Cole (Espinal).
U—Manny Gonzalez, Quinn Wolcott, Junior Valentine, Adrian Johnson. **T**—2:35. **Tickets sold**—43,223 (47,309).

ORIOLES 5
TIGERS 1

Kyle Gibson tied a career high with 11 strikeouts in the latest impressive outing by a Baltimore starter, and Ramón Urías hit a three-run double to lift the Orioles to their fifth straight win.

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Maton 3b	4	0	0	0	.131
Báez ss	4	0	1	0	.203
Greene cf	3	0	0	0	.237
Carpenter rf	2	0	0	0	.231
a-Schoop	1	0	0	0	.179
Torkelson 1b	3	0	0	0	.222
McKtry 2b	3	1	1	1	.250
b-Vierling	1	0	0	0	.218
Baddoo lf	2	0	0	0	.226
Nevin dh	3	0	0	0	.077
Haase c	3	0	0	0	.234
Totals	29	1	2	1	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hays lf	3	0	0	0	.311
Rtschmn dh	3	1	2	1	.307
Mntcstle 1b	4	1	1	0	.212
Sntnder rf	3	1	0	0	.200
McKenna rf	0	0	0	0	.200
Urías 3b	3	0	1	3	.240
Vavra 3b	1	0	0	0	.182
Frazier 2b	4	0	0	0	.213
McCann c	3	1	1	1	.167
Hendrsn ss	3	1	1	0	.193
Mullins cf	3	0	0	0	.250
Totals	30	5	6	5	

Detroit	000 000 100 –1	2	0
Baltimore	004 100 00x –5	6	0

a-popped out for Carpenter in the 9th. b-lined out for McKinstry in the 9th.

Walks—Detroit 4: Greene 1, Carpenter 1, Torkelson 1, Baddoo 1. Baltimore 3: Hays 1, Rutschman 1, Santander 1.

Strikeouts—Detroit 15: Maton 1, Báez 2, Greene 2, Carpenter 1, Torkelson 2, McKinstry 1, Baddoo 2, Nevin 2, Haase 2. Baltimore 10: Hays 2, Mountcastle 2, Santander 2, Urías 2, Frazier 1, Henderson 1.

LOB—Detroit 5, Baltimore 4. **2B**—Urías (4). **HR**—McKinstry (2), off Gibson; McCann (1), off Wentz. **RBIs**—McKinstry (4), Rutschman (15), Urías 3 (7), McCann (2). **SB**—Báez (2).

Runners left in scoring position—Detroit 2 (McKinstry 2); Baltimore 1 (Frazier). **RISP**—Detroit 0 for 2; Baltimore 2 for 4.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wentz, L, 0-3	4	6	5	5	2	4	72	7.56
Vest	2	0	0	0	0	4	25	0.00
Alexander	2	0	0	0	1	2	30	5.40
Baltimore	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Gibson, W, 4-0	6⅓	2	1	1	3	11	96	3.60
Cano	1⅔	0	0	0	0	3	19	0.00
Coulombe	1	0	0	0	1	1	17	1.12

WP—Wentz.
U—Vic Carapazza, Nick Mahrley, Adam Hamari, Brock Ballou. **T**—2:15. **Tickets sold**—12,194 (45,971).

NATIONALS 10
TWINS 4

Joey Meneses tied a career high with four hits, CJ Abrams hit his first home run since Washington acquired him in a trade last summer and hot Nationals bats slammed 15 hits on a chilly day.

Wash.	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Call lf	3	2	0	0	.196
Cndlrio 3b	5	1	2	2	.268
Mnses 1b	6	0	4	2	.259
García 2b	4	0	2	1	.236
Thomas rf	5	1	1	0	.278
Smith dh	4	1	2	0	.243
Adams c	3	1	1	0	.167
Abrams ss	5	1	1	3	.212
Robles cf	4	3	2	1	.305
Totals	39	10	15	9	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Buxton dh	4	1	1	1	.243
Gallo 1b	4	1	0	0	.258
b-Solano	1	0	0	0	.308
Correa ss	4	0	3	1	.227
Kepler rf	4	1	1	0	.175
c-Castro	1	0	0	0	.208
Polanco 2b	5	1	1	0	.222
Larnach lf	4	0	1	2	.233
Miranda 3b	4	0	2	0	.229
Vázquez c	3	0	0	0	.298
Taylor cf	2	0	0	0	.231
a-Gordon cf	1	0	0	0	.104
Totals	37	4	9	4	

Washington	220 100 302 –10	15	1
Minnesota	001 010 200 – 4	9	0

a-grounded out for Taylor in the 8th. b-popped out for Gallo in the 9th. c-struck out for Kepler in the 9th.

Walks—Washington 5: Call 2, García 1, Smith 1, Adams 1. Minnesota 4: Buxton 1, Correa 1, Vázquez 1, Taylor 1. **Strikeouts**—Washington 12: Call 3, Meneses 2, Thomas 3, Smith 1, Adams 1, Abrams 1, Robles 1. Minnesota 11: Buxton 2, Gallo 2, Correa 1, Kepler 1, Castro 1, Polanco 1, Vázquez 2, Taylor 1. **E**—Adams (1). **LOB**—Washington 11, Minnesota 10. **2B**—Candelario (4), Meneses (6), Robles (3), Kepler (3), Polanco (1), Larnach (2). **3B**—Robles (1). **HR**—Abrams (1), off Woods Richardson; Buxton (3), off Kuhl. **RBIs**—Meneses 2 (7), García (7), Candelario 2 (11), Abrams 3 (8), Robles (5), Buxton (7), Correa (8), Larnach 2 (15). .**DP**—Minnesota 1 (Correa, Polanco, Gallo).

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kuhl	3⅔	3	1	1	4	5	96	7.36
Thompson, W, 2-1	2⅓	2	1	0	0	4	35	1.15
Harris	1	3	2	2	0	0	19	4.50
Edwards Jr.	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	0.96
Banda	1	1	0	0	0	1	20	6.00
Minnesota	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
P.López, L, 1-2	4	8	5	5	2	6	83	3.00
Woods Richardson	4⅔	7	5	5	3	5	97	9.64
Headrick	⅓	0	0	0	0	1	3	2.70

HBP—P.López 2 (Call, Robles). **WP**—Kuhl, P.López. **PB**—Adams (1), Vázquez (1). **T**—3:09. **Tickets sold**—23,045 (38,544).

GIANTS 7
METS 4

Logan Webb stopped his four-game losing streak, holding the Mets' hot offense to two runs in seven innings. It was his first win since signing a $90-million, five-year contract for 2024-28.

New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Nimmo cf	4	1	1	1	.368
Marte rf	4	0	2	1	.239
Lindor ss	4	0	0	0	.220
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	.279
McNeil 2b	4	0	1	0	.286
Canha lf	3	2	2	0	.233
Vglbch dh	4	0	1	1	.237
Baty 3b	4	1	2	1	.235
Nido c	3	0	1	0	.122
a-Guillorme	1	0	0	0	.270
Totals	35	4	10	4	

San Fran.	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Estrada 2b	4	2	2	0	.329
Ruf dh	4	0	1	1	.273
Conforto rf	4	1	1	1	.220
Flores 1b	3	2	1	1	.295
Villar 3b	2	0	0	1	.167
Crawford ss	4	1	1	3	.158
Bart c	3	0	0	0	.300
Ramos cf	2	1	1	0	.192
Wisely cf	2	0	0	0	.083
Wade Jr. lf	3	0	0	0	.191
Totals	31	7	7	7	

New York	011 000 011 –4	10	1
San Francisco	420 010 00x –7	7	0

a-grounded out for Nido in the 9th.

Walks—New York 1: Canha 1. San Francisco 3: Flores 1, Villar 1, Wade Jr. 1.

Strikeouts—New York 9: Lindor 1, Alonso 2, McNeil 1, Vogelbach 3, Baty 2. San Francisco 11: Estrada 1, Ruf 2, Conforto 1, Crawford 2, Bart 1, Ramos 1, Wade Jr. 3.

E—Baty (1). **LOB**—New York 5, San Francisco 5. **2B**—Vogelbach (2), Wade Jr. (1). **HR**—Nimmo (2), off Webb; Crawford (3), off Peterson; Flores (3), off Peterson. **RBIs**—Vogelbach (8), Nimmo (12), Marte (6), Baty (2), Villar (10), Crawford 3 (9), Ruf (3), Conforto (9), Flores (7). **SB**—Estrada (5). **CS**—Estrada (0), Marte (3), Villar (1). **SF**—Villar.

Runners left in scoring position—New York 2 (Baty, Alonso); San Francisco 2 (Villar, Conforto). RISP_New York 2 for 6; San Francisco 3 for 9.

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peterson, L, 1-3	5	7	7	7	1	8	98	7.36
Uceta	3	0	0	0	2	3	51	0.00
San Francisco	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Webb, W, 1-4	7	5	2	2	1	8	98	4.40
Alexander	1	3	1	1	0	0	14	2.16
Doval	1	2	1	1	0	1	23	3.38

HBP—Uceta (Bart).
U—Chad Whitson, Roberto Ortiz, Rob Drake, Bill Miller. **T**—2:35. **Tickets sold**—29,912 (41,915).

RANGERS 18
ATHLETICS 3

Adolis García hit three home runs and then two late doubles, driving in eight runs in Texas' rout. All three of García's homers were two-run shots, and his first double also scored a pair.

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ruiz cf	4	1	1	0	.296
Diaz 2b	4	1	1	1	.429
Aguilar 1b	3	1	2	1	.259
Rooker lf	3	0	1	0	.326
C.Pérez c	3	0	0	1	.385
Díaz 3b	3	0	0	0	.139
Wade 3b	1	0	0	0	.000
Lngelrs dh	2	0	0	0	.230
K.Smith ss	4	0	1	0	.175
Capel rf	4	0	1	0	.295
Totals	31	3	7	3	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Semn 2b	3	2	2	2	.296
Duran 2b	2	2	2	2	.265
Jnkwski lf	5	2	1	0	.316
Lowe 1b	4	3	2	1	.256
Sborz p	1	0	0	0	.000
García rf	5	5	5	8	.260
Jung 3b	6	1	2	2	.286
Heim c	2	0	1	2	.320
León c	1	0	1	1	.286
B.Millr dh	5	0	0	0	.200
J.Smith ss	3	2	1	0	.162
Taveras cf	4	1	1	0	.200
Thpsn lf	1	0	0	0	.174
Totals	42	18	18	18	

Oakland	200 000 010 – 3	7	0
Texas	254 020 32x –18	18	0

Walks—Oakland 2: Rooker 1, Langeliers 1. Texas 6: Semien 1, Jankowski 1, Lowe 1, Heim 1, J.Smith 2. **Strikeouts**—Oakland 9: Diaz 1, Rooker 1, C.Pérez 1, Wade 1, Langeliers 1, K.Smith 3, Capel 1. Texas 6: Semien 1, Lowe 2, Sborz 1, Jung 2. **LOB**—Oakland 6, Texas 8. **2B**—Ruiz (5), K.Smith (1), Taveras (3), Heim (3), García 2 (3). **HR**—Aguilar (2), off Sborz; García (5), off Fujinami; García 2 (7), off Martínez; Duran (1), off Peterson. **RBIs**—Diaz (3), C.Pérez (4), Aguilar (5), García 8 (28), Semien 2 (20), Jung 2 (11), Heim 2 (16), Lowe (15), León (3), Duran 2 (6). **SF**—C.Pérez. **Runners moved up**—Ruiz 2, C.Pérez, Taveras. **GIDP**—C.Pérez, Díaz. **DP**—Texas 2 (Jung, Semien, Lowe; J.Smith, Semien, Lowe).

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Fujinami, L, 0-4	2⅓	7	8	8	3	2	72	14.40
Martínez	3⅔	5	5	5	1	2	70	6.75
Kaprielian	1	4	3	3	0	1	24	12.33
Peterson	1	2	2	2	2	1	31	18.00
Texas	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Heaney, W, 2-1	6	5	2	2	2	4	97	4.34
Kennedy	1	1	0	0	0	1	13	7.94
Sborz	2	1	1	1	0	4	34	1.42

Inherited runners-scored—Martínez 1-1. **HBP**—Heaney (Aguilar), Fujinami (García), Martínez (Heim), Kennedy (Langeliers). **WP**—Fujinami(2), Martínez.
U—Jordan Baker, Tripp Gibson, Brennan Miller, Mark Carlson. **T**—2:45. **Tickets sold**—32,388 (40,000).

PADRES 5
DIAMONDBACKS 3

Fernando Tatis Jr., who missed 2022 because of a broken left wrist and a PED suspension, hit his first homer since 2021 and Ha-Seong Kim had a key two-run single to lead San Diego.

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Grisham cf	4	0	0	0	.213
Tatis Jr. rf	4	2	1	1	.154
Soto lf	4	2	2	0	.192
Bogaerts ss	2	1	0	0	.341
Carpenter dh	2	0	1	1	.179
a-Cruz dh	2	0	0	0	.255
Crnwrth 1b	4	0	1	1	.213
Kim 3b	3	0	1	2	.203
Odor 2b	4	0	0	0	.100
Nola c	3	0	0	0	.143
Totals	32	5	6	5	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Rojas 3b	4	0	0	0	.306
McCarthy rf	0	0	0	0	.143
Marte 2b	4	1	1	0	.282
Carroll rf-cf	4	1	2	0	.266
Walker 1b	3	1	2	3	.241
Gurriel Jr. lf	4	0	1	0	.266
Smith dh	3	0	1	0	.333
c-Ahmed dh	1	0	0	0	.310
Moreno c	4	0	2	0	.293
Thomas cf	2	0	0	0	.183
b-Lngria 3b	2	0	0	0	.286
Perdomo ss	4	0	0	0	.364
Totals	35	3	9	3	

San Diego	200 002 010 –5	6	0
Arizona	102 000 000 –3	9	0

a-struck out for Carpenter in the 6th. b-flied out for Thomas in the 7th. c-pinch hit for Smith in the 8th.

Walks—San Diego 6: Grisham 1, Tatis Jr. 1, Bogaerts 2, Kim 1, Nola 1. **Strikeouts**—San Diego 11: Grisham 2, Tatis Jr. 1, Soto 1, Carpenter 1, Cruz 2, Cronenworth 1, Kim 1, Odor 1, Nola 1. Arizona 7: Rojas 3, Carroll 1, Gurriel Jr. 1, Smith 1, Thomas 1. **LOB**—San Diego 6, Arizona 6. **2B**—Carpenter (2), Carroll (5). **HR**—Tatis Jr. (1), off Kelly; Walker (3), off Musgrove. **RBIs**—Tatis Jr. (1), Carpenter (8), Kim 2 (6), Cronenworth (9), Walker 3 (14). **SB**—Walker (1). **DP**—San Diego 1 (Cronenworth, Bogaerts, Cronenworth); Arizona 1 (Perdomo, Walker, Marte, Walker).

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Musgrove, W, 1-0	5	7	3	3	0	6	80	5.40
Wilson, H, 5	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.66
Weathers, H, 1	1	1	0	0	0	1	21	2.65
Hill, H, 4	1	1	0	0	0	0	12	1.80
Hader, S, 7-7	1	0	0	0	0	0	16	0.90
Arizona	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Kelly, L, 1-3	5	3	4	4	5	7	94	3.42
K.Nelson, BS, 0-1	1	1	0	0	0	2	11	0.93
McGough	1⅔	1	1	1	0	1	21	5.79
Chafin	⅓	1	0	0	0	0	5	3.52
Ginkel	1	0	0	0	1	1	15	4.82

HBP—Hill (Walker).
U--Jim Wolf, Mike Muchlinski, Nate Tomlinson, Alan Porter. **T**—2:48. **Tickets sold**—28,419 (48,359).

Quijada and Angels blow lead in ninth

The reliever surrenders five runs after his team builds a two-run advantage.

KANSAS CITY 11
ANGELS 8

By Sarah Valenzuela

There was plenty of blame to go around in the Angels' 11-8 loss to the lowly Kansas City Royals. Maybe the little errors. Possibly the call review that cost them a challenge later in the game. Perhaps some spots of pitching that, at least before the ninth inning, the offense was able to overcome.

But the lasting memory that Angels fans who watched Saturday's game will have will be the ninth inning that unraveled in spectacular fashion. Reliever José Quijada gave up five earned runs on two hits, two walks and two hit batters as the Angels lost an 8-6 lead. He was charged with the loss and a blown save.

It's important to note that this bad outing for Quijada was exactly that: a bad outing. Good relievers have bad games. Before Saturday, Quijada had not allowed a run, had given up just three hits and walked just one batter in eight outings.

Manager Phil Nevin said that Carlos Estévez, who has also closed games this season, was not available, but pointed out that Quijada has closed successfully in the past.

It appears the Angels got in their own way of winning a game that, based on the standings, should have been theirs.

The Angels have been their own biggest obstacle in the past, most recently in two losses in Boston last weekend — although Saturday's game was lost on pitching, not necessarily sloppy defense.

Nevin said he was not worried about a recurring pattern of those type of losses.

"Have we lost games with self-inflicted wounds? Absolutely," Nevin said. "Am I worried about that part of it? No, because we've not done that in a little while.

"We've played a much better brand of baseball lately than we did a couple of those games in Boston and a couple before that. I'm not worried about that."

The ninth began with Nicky Lopez being hit and Kyle Isbel followed with a deep drive that just missed the yellow home run line on top of the fence in right field. The umpires originally ruled the hit a home run but — after a review — changed it to double. Isbel moved to third base during the play after Hunter Renfroe's throw to Zach Neto bounced in the grass and popped up, hit Neto in the shin and skittered into the outfield.

"That was just a weird bullet that skipped on dewy grass at night and it hit Neto in the shin," Nevin said. "That's nobody's fault."

That one sequence allowed just one run to score, but later led to four more runs. By the time Quijada was pulled, unable to get the last out of the top of the ninth, the damage was done.

"Like I've always said, this level is very hard," Quijada said in Spanish after the game. "I had a bad outing, but I have to move forward and keep working."

The ending of it all dampened what could have been a game about the offense doing what it was designed to do: get big hits.

The day started with Mike Trout collecting his ninth Silver Slugger award. He smiled for cameras, was serenaded by cheering as he triumphantly walked back with his latest piece of hardware. Not too long after that, Trout reminded the Angel Stadium crowd why he's been a perennial winner of the award. In the bottom of the fifth, Trout hit a towering two-run home run for a 4-3 lead.

Renfroe had his 18th career multi-home run game on Saturday, hitting solo shots in the the fourth and sixth inning.

Renfroe's first home run came with a little scare as the baseball hit a young fan in the first row of seats by the base of the left-field foul pole. The fan ultimately appeared OK and he was given what appeared to be an ice pack and a towel for the side of his face, where the ball hit him.

And Matt Thaiss — who had been called for two catchers interference calls in Boston — later hit his own two-run blast, his first home run of the season, which allowed the Angels to pull ahead in the bottom of the eighth inning, 8-6.

"Definitely not the circumstances we wanted," Thaiss said, "but we'll get back out there tomorrow and I think it was a good step for me today at the plate."

Nuccio DiNuzzo Getty Images

MAX MUNCY (13), who homered twice and drove in three runs, caps off his monster offensive game with a hug from Freddie Freeman after the Dodgers' victory. Muncy has hit nine home runs in his last 12 games.

Lineup tallies bloops while Muncy, Outman offer blasts

[**Dodgers,** from D1]

different.

A lineup that had seemingly had six or seven automatic outs in recent weeks — with Will Smith sidelined by a concussion (he won't return until at least the next homestand, Roberts said) and Mookie Betts missing time on the paternity list — got 11 hits from six players and had a seventh reach base with one of the team's five walks.

A unit that had recently struggled with runners in scoring position — entering Saturday with a .214 batting average in those situations over its last eight games — went three for 11, going down in order only one time.

Most of all, the Dodgers were able to build an early lead against the surging Cubs (12-8), shaking off the dust following their one-hit shutout Friday afternoon.

"Yesterday was tough for all of us," Outman said. "We wanted to come out and do better."

Outman aided that cause early.

In the top of the second inning, he smashed a hanging two-strike slider to right for a solo home run.

In the fourth, his broken-bat single added another run — though this time, it was set up by a couple of productive at-bats from the hitters in front of him, with J.D. Martinez leading the inning off with a down-the-line double before advancing to third on a grounder from Jason Heyward.

"J-Hey ... wanting to move the guy over to third, and Outy to get a little broken bat out there," Muncy said. "When you have a whole lineup doing that, it gets contagious."

A similar script played out in the sixth inning.

Martinez drew a leadoff walk. Outman lifted a single to center field. Then Miguel Vargas came off the bench and lined an RBI base hit up the middle, making it 4-2 Dodgers after Dustin May's solid six-strikeout, 5⅓-inning start.

"We kept grinding at-bats," Roberts said. "I thought overall, all the way up and down our lineup, really good plans today."

From there, Muncy and Outman took care of the rest.

Muncy hammered a two-run homer in the seventh, opening up a four-run lead. Then, after Nico Hoerner hit his own two-run blast off struggling Dodgers reliever Yency Almonte, Muncy and Outman went deep in the ninth — becoming the first Dodgers teammates with multiple home runs in the same game since July 2021.

"It just feels good," Muncy said of his recent tear, a 12-game stretch in which he has batted .382 with nine home runs and 17 RBIs.

As for his rookie teammate?

"He's a good player," Muncy said of Outman. "He works hard. He's smart. And he's always talking about what a pitcher is doing, what we think, what we feel about certain guys. For a guy that doesn't have a lot of experience with a lot of these pitchers, it's really impressive for him to be so open to what we talk to him about."

It was another example of what the Dodgers hope will be rapid improvement for their offense.

They have shown they can score in bunches. They know they can leave the yard. What they need is consistent production to supplement it all, for a game like Saturday's to become their norm.

Erin Hooley Associated Press

JAMES OUTMAN, who had two homers among his four hits, dives safely back to first base on a pickoff.

GOLF

Corpuz, Yin tied for lead at LPGA major in Texas

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Americans Allisen Corpuz and Angel Yin shared the Chevron Championship lead at 10-under-par 206 after the third round Saturday at the Woodlands, Texas.

Corpuz and Yin each shot five-under 67 at the Club at Carlton Woods in the major tournament that moved from the California desert to suburban Houston this year.

Corpuz started out strong, with birdies on four of the first five holes, including the first three.

She had a chance to birdie the 18th in a bogey-free round, but her putt rolled just shy.

"Just tried to put myself in good position, fairways and greens," she said. "Just hit some really solid shots starting out and was able to convert the putts."

Yin had four birdies on the back nine, highlighted by one on the 18th that moved her into the tie for first.

"Even though I didn't hit it as good as I did the first day or the second day, I did manage to score well, and I just adapted and I stayed patient," she said. "My caddie kept telling me to stay patient, so I'm glad I did that."

Corpuz and Yin are looking for their first LPGA Tour title.

Amy Yang, Albane Valenzuela and Megan Khang are tied for third, a stroke behind.

Eric Gay Associated Press

ALLISEN CORPUZ hits a tee shot on the second hole during the third round. She birdied her first three holes and was a missed putt shy of a bogey-free round.

A highlight of the third round was a million-dollar shot by In Gee Chun of South Korea. She won $1 million for charity with a hole-in-one on the 17th.

Clark-Hossler still in front by one

Wyndham Clark and Beau Hossler shot a 10-under 62 in better-ball play to maintain a one-shot lead through three rounds at the Zurich Classic at Avondale, La.

"It's going to be a cool environment and a unique experience frankly to have a chance to win a golf tournament with a partner," Hossler said. "So, it will be a nice little Sunday for us."

Clark and Hossler have finished each of the first three rounds atop the leaderboard on the strength of steady and largely mistake-free play. Though they have not accounted for any of the 25 eagles during the tournament, they have not posted a bogey in 54 holes.

They birdied 10 holes in the third round to put them at 26 under — a stroke ahead of Sungjae Im and Keith Mitchell — heading into the final round.

Clark made two birdie putts from beyond 20 feet — a 26-footer on par-four 12th and a 21-footer on the par-three third.

Im and Mitchell also went bogey free with 10 birdies to remain one shot back at 25 under.

Tied for third were Vincent Norman and Matthias Schwab, Taylor Moore and Matthew NeSmith, and Nick Hardy and Davis Riley, three shots back.

Gooch extends lead at LIV event

Talor Gooch continued his bogey-free run at the inaugural LIV Australia tournament and shot his second consecutive 10-under 62 to increase his lead to 10 strokes after two rounds at the Grange Golf Club in Adelaide.

There was a six-way tie for second, including Brooks Koepka, who shot 65.

Local favorite and British Open champion Cam Smith was a further stroke back and in a tie for eighth after a 66. Phil Mickelson was among that group after a 65.

SCORES

$25-MILLION LIV TOUR ADELAIDE
At Adelaide, Australia—Par 72
The Grange Golf Club—6,968 yards
36-hole leaders

Talor Gooch	62-62—124	-20
Charl Schwartzel	68-66—134	-10
Pat Perez	67-67—134	-10
Abraham Ancer	69-65—134	-10
Brooks Koepka	69-65—134	-10
Louis Oosthuizen	68-66—134	-10
Cameron Tringale	69-65—134	-10
Dean Burmester	66-69—135	-9
Anirban Lahiri	69-66—135	-9
Cameron Smith	69-66—135	-9
Harold Varner III	71-64—135	-9
Phil Mickelson	70-65—135	-9
Peter Uihlein	68-68—136	-8
Dustin Johnson	71-65—136	-8
Henrik Stenson	68-68—136	-8
Graeme McDowell	67-69—136	-8
Sergio Garcia	68-68—136	-8
Patrick Reed	71-65—136	-8
Richard Bland	66-71—137	-7
David Puig	70-67—137	-7
Kevin Na	68-69—137	-7
Bernd Wiesberger	67-70—137	-7
Bubba Watson	70-67—137	-7

$8.6-MILLION ZURICH CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS
At New Orleans—Par 72
TPC Louisiana—7,425 yards
54-hole leaders

W.Clark/B.Hossler	61-67-62—190	-26
S.Im/K.Mitchell	62-67-62—191	-25
D.Riley/N.Hardy	64-66-63—193	-23
M.Schwab/V.Norrman	64-67-62—193	-23
T.Moore/M.NeSmith	64-66-63—193	-23
B.Matthews/S.O'Hair	61-69-64—194	-22
C.Ramey/M.Trainer	63-67-65—195	-21
H.English/T.Hoge	64-68-63—195	-21
M.Fitzpatrick/A.Fitzpatrick	62-71-62—195	-21
R.Streb/T.Merritt	63-69-64—196	-20
S.Burns/B.Horschel	64-69-63—196	-20
X.Schauffele/P.Cantlay	67-63-66—196	-20
B.An/S.Kim	67-67-63—197	-19
E.Van Rooyen/M.Daffue	64-70-63—197	-19
J.Spaun/H.Buckley	66-66-65—197	-19
K.Kitayama/T.Montgomery	65-67-65—197	-19
N.Taylor/A.Hadwin	66-67-64—197	-19
S.Kim/T.Kim	66-67-64—197	-19
S.Theegala/J.Suh	63-69-65—197	-19

$5.1-MILLION THE CHEVRON CHAMPIONSHIP
At the Woodlands, Texas—Par 72
Nicklaus Course—6,824 yards
54-hole leaders

Allisen Corpuz	72-67-67—206	-10
Angel Yin	69-70-67—206	-10
Megan Khang	70-67-70—207	-9
Albane Valenzuela	72-67-68—207	-9
Amy Yang	73-69-65—207	-9
Hye Jin Choi	71-70-67—208	-8
A Lim Kim	71-65-72—208	-8
Hyo Joo Kim	70-70-68—208	-8
Nelly Korda	68-70-70—208	-8
Atthaya Thitikul	70-71-68—209	-7
Ashleigh Buhai	71-73-66—210	-6
Lilia Vu	68-69-73—210	-6
Carlota Ciganda	70-72-69—211	-5
Ally Ewing	70-70-71—211	-5
Eun-Hee Ji	70-71-70—211	-5
Xiyu Lin	71-69-71—211	-5
Celine Boutier	73-67-72—212	-4
Marina Alex	68-73-72—213	-3
In Gee Chun	78-66-69—213	-3
Ariya Jutanugarn	71-71-71—213	-3
Cheyenne Knight	71-69-73—213	-3
Jin Young Ko	72-71-70—213	-3

CHAMPIONS TOUR
$2-MILLION INVITED CELEBRITY CLASSIC
At Irving, Texas—Par 71
Las Colinas Country Club—6,703 yards
36-hole leaders

Alex Cejka	66-64—130	-12
Mark Hensby	66-65—131	-11
Charlie Wi	69-64—133	-9
David Branshaw	68-67—135	-7
Dicky Pride	68-67—135	-7
Stuart Appleby	68-68—136	-6
Cameron Beckman	72-64—136	-6
Chris DiMarco	70-66—136	-6
Jerry Kelly	69-67—136	-6
Scott McCarron	71-65—136	-6
Wes Short	68-68—136	-6
Ken Duke	68-69—137	-5
Retief Goosen	67-70—137	-5
Rob Labritz	66-71—137	-5
Rocco Mediate	70-67—137	-5
Tom Pernice	68-69—137	-5
Kirk Triplett	67-70—137	-5
Steven Alker	69-69—138	-4
Arjun Atwal	70-68—138	-4

MLS ROUNDUP

Hernández, Puig rise up in Galaxy's first win of season

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Javier "Chicharito" Hernández and Riqui Puig scored second-half goals to rally the Galaxy to a 2-0 victory over Austin FC on Saturday night at Dignity Health Sports Park, the team's first MLS win this season after eight games.

Hernández took a pass from Dejan Joveljic and scored in the 54th minute with a shot to the upper left corner to give the Galaxy the lead. Puig scored an insurance goal 10 minutes later after a cross to the left wing from Mark Delgado that Puig slotted into the right corner.

The Galaxy (1-4-3) beat Austin for a third straight time and improved to 4-1-0 all-time in the series.

Austin (2-4-2) has gone 0-3-2 in its last five matches with only one goal scored. Austin has scored just six goals this season.

The Galaxy had advantages of 18-11 in shots and 8-2 in shots on goal.

Jonathan Klinsmann saved two shots to earn the clean sheet for the Galaxy.

LAFC 1, at Nashville 1: Denis Bouanga scored early in the second half to help LAFC earn a draw.

Bouanga used an assist from Stipe Biuk to score the equalizer in the 59th minute for LAFC (5-0-3). Bouanga has seven goals this season.

Hany Mukhtar took a pass from Teal Bunbury and scored in the 35th minute to give Nashville (3-3-3) a 1-0 lead at halftime.

Mukhtar, the reigning most valuable player, had not contributed to a goal in Nashville's last two home matches but had never gone three straight at home without a goal or an assist.

John McCarthy had two saves for LAFC. Joe Willis totaled five saves for Nashville.

MLS standings

Western Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Saint Louis City SC	6	2	1	19	21	10
Seattle	6	2	1	19	17	7
LAFC	5	0	3	18	16	6
FC Dallas	4	3	2	14	12	11
San Jose	4	3	2	14	11	11
Houston	4	3	1	13	10	8
Minnesota United	3	3	2	11	8	8
Vancouver	2	2	4	10	11	7
Real Salt Lake	3	5	0	9	10	17
Portland	2	5	2	8	11	15
Austin FC	2	4	2	8	6	12
Colorado	1	3	5	8	6	11
GALAXY	1	4	3	6	7	12
Sporting Kansas City	0	6	3	3	3	13
Eastern Conference	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
New England	6	1	2	20	15	8
Cincinnati	6	1	2	20	12	10
Atlanta	4	1	3	15	16	12
New York City FC	4	2	3	15	12	10
Columbus	4	3	2	14	18	10
Nashville	3	3	3	12	8	5
Philadelphia	3	4	2	11	14	13
D.C. United	3	4	2	11	11	13
Orlando City	3	3	2	11	8	10
Chicago	2	1	4	10	11	10
Charlotte FC	2	4	3	9	10	16
Toronto FC	1	2	6	9	12	13
New York	1	3	5	8	6	9
Inter Miami CF	2	6	0	6	6	9
CF Montreal	1	6	0	3	3	17

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
GALAXY 2, Austin FC 0
LAFC 1, Nashville 1, tie
Charlotte FC 1, Columbus 0
Cincinnati 2, Portland 1
CF Montréal 2, New York 0
New England 2, Sporting Kansas City 1
New York City FC 3, FC Dallas 1
D.C. United 3, Orlando City 1
Philadelphia 4, Toronto FC 2
Houston 1, Miami 0
Saint Louis City SC 1, Colorado 1, tie
Real Salt Lake 3, San Jose 1
Seattle 1, Minnesota 0
TODAY'S MATCH
Chicago at Atlanta, 1:30 p.m.

LAFC 1, NASHVILLE 1

LAFC	**0**	**1–1**
Nashville	**1**	**0–1**

FIRST HALF—1. Nashville, Mukhtar, 3 (Bunbury), 35th minute.

SECOND HALFlf—2. LAFC, Bouanga, 7 (Biuk), 59th.

GOALIES—LAFC, John McCarthy, Abraham Romero; Nashville, Joe Willis, Elliot Panicco. Yellow cards—Maldonado, LAFC, 8th; Duenas, LAFC, 69th; Murillo, LAFC, 88th.

Referee—Ted Unkel. Assistant referees—Ryan Graves, Chris Elliott, Drew Fischer. 4th official—Cory Richardson.

A—30,109.

GALAXY 2, AUSTIN FC 0

Austin FC	**0**	**0–0**
Galaxy	**0**	**2–2**

FIRST HALF—Scoring: None.

SECOND HALF—1. Galaxy, Chicharito, 1 (Joveljic), 54th minute; 2. Galaxy, Puig, 1 (Delgado), 64th.

GOALIES—Austin FC, Bradley Stuver, Matt Bersano; Galaxy, Jonathan Klinsmann, Simon Jillson. **Yellow cards**—Puig, Galaxy, 3rd; Urruti, Austin FC, 40th; Vaisanen, Austin FC, 43rd; Boyd, Galaxy, 61st; Chicharito, Galaxy, 90th+1; Ring, Austin FC, 90th+3; Aguirre, Galaxy, 90th+4.

Referee—Christopher Penso. Assistant referees—Cameron Blanchard, Stefan Tanaka-Freundt, Jair Antonio Marrufo. 4th official—Jeremy Hanson.

Answering an age-old question

Thompson, other teenagers are changing U.S. women's soccer

BY KEVIN BAXTER

JOHN TODD U.S. Soccer/Getty Images

ANGEL CITY player Alyssa Thompson said her meteoric rise in soccer "definitely hasn't been easy."

Alyssa Thompson has English class on Wednesdays. Nothing unusual about that, a lot of high school students have English class on Wednesday.

What is unique is that she's the only one in her class who has been excused to play professional soccer.

"I still got my work done," said Thompson, a senior at Harvard-Westlake in Studio City. "I came back to school, my teacher was super proud that I went and just asked me a bunch of questions, which was cool."

Cool and perhaps soon to be common since the NWSL changed its rules last November, allowing teams to sign players younger than 18. There are now six teenagers in the women's league, including a pair of 15-year-olds — Chloe Ricketts, who became the youngest player in league history when she signed a three-year contract with the Washington Spirit last month, and Melanie Barcenas, who broke Ricketts' record when she signed a three-year deal with the San Diego Wave two weeks later.

For many, that's a sign of the growth and maturity for the NWSL and the grassroots of female soccer in the U.S.

"It's about time that America got to the same standards as everybody else around the world," said San Diego Wave coach Casey Stoney, who coached teenagers during her time with Manchester United. "This isn't new in Europe. So I'm really pleased to see the movement. I'm excited that the league has moved in that direction."

Freya Coombe, Thompson's coach with Angel City, agreed.

"If you're good enough, you should have the opportunity to play," she said. "We see it in Europe all the time where players that are underage go into their first teams. It's a great way to develop talent."

The league's two best teenagers will be on the field Sunday when Thompson, 18, leads Angel City against 18-year-old forward Jaedyn Shaw of the San Diego Wave at BMO Stadium.

The two were teammates at last year's U-20 World Cup but Thompson now has a bigger target in sight: this summer's senior World Cup in Australia/New Zealand, where the U.S. will be chasing a third consecutive title.

"I always wanted to be right there," said Thompson, who made her first start for the team earlier this month in a 1-0 win over Ireland. "I feel like if I put in the work and did enough throughout the season, I have a chance. I'll work as hard as I can to have a chance for that team."

In that friendly Thompson became the youngest player to start a match for the women's national team in nearly seven years. With captain Becky Sauerbrunn, 37, also in the lineup, the 19-year age difference was the largest between two starters in USWNT history.

That's a large number, but it also underscores the aging nature of the national team and coach Vlatko Andonovski's uneven attempts to make it younger. The U.S. had the oldest roster in the last two World Cups — both of which it won — and in the Tokyo Olympics, where it finished third. Ten of the players on the team Andonovski called up this month are older than 30, yet eight are younger than 25.

Thompson, the youngest player on the team, got her chance after Mallory Swanson, who leads the U.S. with 14 goals since the start of 2022, tore a patellar tendon, an injury that will keep her out of the World Cup. Injuries also created opportunity at Angel City, with Thompson owing part of her playing time to the loss of forwards Christen Press, Sydney Leroux and Simone Charley.

"I am taking advantage of whatever comes my way," said Thompson, who played just 96 minutes in Angel City's last two games, part of an effort to limit her minutes to keep her fresh. "I feel like, as a player, I'm good enough to be there. I think that just my skill set alone will help me get on the team. But I obviously keep having to work hard."

Carli Lloyd, a two-time world player of the year and two-time world champion, said Thompson deserves to be in the World Cup conversation.

"I have been super impressed with the skill set and decision-making Alyssa has," said Lloyd, now a soccer analyst. "For an 18-year-old to be able to get out of tight spaces, take players on the dribble, know when to play 1-2 touch, have the confidence to shoot and be able to speed up and slow down on the dribble is something not many players have when they enter the pro level.

"She is unpredictable and a smart player for her age."

That last attribute, Lloyd said, might ultimately determine how far Thompson goes.

"It's hard to get to the professional level in soccer and it's even harder to stay there," Lloyd said. "The amount of pressure and weight that already seems to be following Alyssa is going to be her biggest test.

"She had a high ceiling with her talent, but that won't be the deciding factor for her. It will all be mental. The players that are mentally strong will continue to have success."

Thompson has the tools there too, having attended an academically demanding high school in Harvard-Westlake while committing to Stanford before declaring for the NWSL draft, knowing that she needed top-flight competition this spring if she hoped to remain in the World Cup conversation.

Without the league's current youth movement, however, turning pro as a high school senior might not have been an option.

"I've done everything that I could to be in the position that I am and it definitely hasn't been easy," she said. "[It's] like everything just fell into place. I feel like I was just born at the right time."

Even her English teacher would agree with that.

NHL PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Amadio lifts Vegas in double overtime

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS O'MEARA Associated Press

ANTHONY CIRELLI (71) of Tampa Bay looks to knock in the puck on Toronto goalie Ilya Samsonov.

Michael Amadio scored at 3:40 of the second overtime Saturday to give the visiting Vegas Golden Knights a 5-4 victory over the Winnipeg Jets and a 2-1 lead in their Western Conference first-round series.

Dylan Sandberg's clearing attempt for Winnipeg from the back boards, deflected off Vegas forward Ivan Barbashev's skate to Amadio for a one-timer that went into the top right corner — going between goalie Connor Hellebuyck's head and glove.

"It is something that I will remember forever for sure," said Amadio, a former King who scored his first playoff goal in his fourth career postseason game. "I kind of didn't even see it go in. I just kind of put it on net and then I heard all the guys on the ice start screaming and that was when I knew."

Adam Lowry tied it for Winnipeg with 21.9 seconds left in regulation to cap a three-goal, third-period comeback.

Toronto 4, at Tampa Bay 3 (OT): Morgan Rielly scored at 19:15 of overtime to give the Maple Leafs the victory and a 2-1 series lead.

Ilya Samsonov stopped 36 shots for Toronto. He had eight saves in the extra period, one on Lightning star Nikita Kucherov from point-blank range.

Toronto forced overtime when Ryan O'Reilly slipped a shot past goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy with a minute left in regulation.

New Jersey 2, at N.Y. Rangers 1 (OT): Dougie Hamilton scored 11:36 into overtime and the Devils won their first game of the series.

Jack Hughes scored and Jesper Bratt had two assists for New Jersey. Akira Schmid got the start in goal in place of Vitek Vanecek and finished with 35 saves.

Colorado 6, at Seattle 4: Nathan MacKinnon and Mikko Rantanen scored in a 1:28 span early in the third period and the Avalanche spoiled the Kraken's first home playoff game to take a 2-1 lead in the series.

MacKinnon scored his first two goals of the playoffs and Cale Makar added his first of this postseason.

NHL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE FIRST ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

P1 Vegas vs. WC2 Winnipeg
Golden Knights lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Winnipeg 5, Vegas 1
Gm 2	Vegas 5, Winnipeg 2
Gm 3	Vegas 5, Winnipeg 4 (2OT)
Gm 4	Monday at Winnipeg, 6:30
Gm 5	Thursday at Vegas, TBD
Gm 6	Saturday at Winnipeg, TBD
Gm 7	May 1 at Vegas, TBD

P2 Edmonton vs. P3 KINGS
Kings lead series 2-1

Gm 1	KINGS 4, Edmonton 3 (OT)
Gm 2	Edmonton 4, KINGS 2
Gm 3	KINGS 3, Edmonton 2 (OT)
Gm 4	Tonight at Kings, 6
Gm 5	Tuesday at Edmonton, 6:30
Gm 6	Saturday at Kings, TBD
Gm 7	May 1 at Edmonton, TBD

C1 Colorado vs. WC1 Seattle
Avalanche lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Seattle 3, Colorado 1
Gm 2	Colorado 3, Seattle 2
Gm 3	Colorado 6, Seattle 4
Gm 4	Monday at Seattle, 7
Gm 5	Wed. at Colorado, 6:30
Gm 6	Friday at Seattle, TBD
Gm 7	April 30 at Colorado, TBD

C2 Dallas vs. C3 Minnesota
Wild lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Minnesota 3, Dallas 2 (2OT)
Gm 2	Dallas 7, Minnesota 3
Gm 3	Minnesota 5, Dallas 1
Gm 4	Today at Minnesota, 3:30
Gm 5	Tuesday at Dallas, 5
Gm 6	Friday at Minnesota, TBD
Gm 7	April 30 at Dallas, TBD

Games 6-7 if necessary

EASTERN CONFERENCE

A1 Boston vs. WC2 Florida
Bruins lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Boston 3, Florida 1
Gm 2	Florida 6, Boston 3
Gm 3	Boston 4, Florida 2
Gm 4	Today at Florida, 12:30
Gm 5	Wednesday at Boston, 4
Gm 6	Friday at Florida, TBD
Gm 7	April 30 at Boston, TBD

A2 Toronto vs. A3 Tampa Bay
Maple Leafs lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 3
Gm 2	Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 2
Gm 3	Toronto 4, T. Bay 3 (OT)
Gm 4	Monday at Tampa Bay, 4:30
Gm 5	Thursday at Toronto, 4
Gm 6	Sat. at Tampa Bay, TBD
Gm 7	May 1 at Toronto, TBD

M1 Carolina vs. WC1 Islanders
Hurricanes lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Carolina 2, Islanders 1
Gm 2	Carolina 4, Islanders 3 (OT)
Gm 3	Islanders 5, Carolina 1
Gm 4	Today at N.Y., 10 a.m.
Gm 5	Tuesday at Carolina, 4
Gm 6	Friday at New York, TBD
Gm 7	April 30 at Carolina, TBD

M2 New Jersey vs. M3 Rangers
Rangers lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Rangers 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 2	Rangers 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 3	N. Jersey 2, Rangers 1 (OT)
Gm 4	Monday at New York, 4
Gm 5	Thurs. at New Jersey, 4:30
Gm 6	Saturday at New York, TBD
Gm 7	May 1 at New Jersey, TBD

All times PDT, unless noted

Avalanche 6, Kraken 4

Colorado	2	1	3	– 6
Seattle	1	2	1	– 4

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Seattle, Schwartz 1 (Schultz, Wennberg), 6:08. 2. Col., Compher 1 (Lehkonen, Makar), 16:07 (sh). 3. Col., MacKinnon 1 (Rantanen, Toews), 19:15. **Penalties—**Meyers, COL (Slashing), 2:30. Soucy, SEA (Slashing), 12:49. Girard, COL (Interference), 15:46. McCann, SEA (Tripping), 18:49. Makar, COL (Tripping), 18:59.

SECOND PERIOD: 4. Col., Makar 1 (Newhook), 4:33. 5. Seattle, Oleksiak 1 (Bjorkstrand, Gourde), 12:51. 6. Seattle, Beniers 1 (McCann, Eberle), 13:10. **Penalties—**Tolvanen, SEA (Slashing), 9:29. Col. bench, served by Malgin (Too Many Men on the Ice), 17:30.

THIRD PERIOD: 7. Col., Rantanen 2 (Toews), 3:01. 8. Col., MacKinnon 2 (Byram, Rodrigues), 4:29. 9. Col., Rantanen 3 (Lehkonen), 17:46 (en). 10, Seattle, Schwartz 2 (Schultz), 19:20 (pp). **Penalties—**O'Connor, COL (Slashing), 7:52. MacKinnon, COL (Cross Checking), 19:16.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Col. 11-15-8—34. Seattle 11-8-12—31. Power-play conversions—Col. 0 of 3. Seattle 1 of 6.

GOALIES: Col., Georgiev 2-1-0 (29 shots-25 saves). Seattle, Grubauer 1-2-0 (33-28). Att—17,151 (17,100). T—2:33.

Devils 2, Rangers 1, OT

New Jersey	0	1	0	1	– 2
N.Y. Rangers	0	1	0	0	– 1

FIRST PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalties—**Kane, N.Y.R (Hooking), 0:22. McLeod, N.J. (Boarding), 5:02.

SECOND PERIOD: 1. N.Y. Rangers, Kreider 5 (Zibanejad, Kane), 3:39. 2. N.J., J.Hughes 2 (Hamilton, Bratt), 10:37 (pp). **Penalties—**Graves, N.J. (Interference), 4:24. Goodrow, N.Y.R (Tripping), 7:22. Bahl, N.J. (Roughing), 10:07. N.Y. Rangers bench, served by Tarasenko (Roughing), 10:07. Bahl, N.J. (Roughing), 10:07. Panarin, N.Y.R (Roughing), 10:07. Bratt, N.J. (Interference), 12:14. Meier, N.J. (Interference), 17:11.

THIRD PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalty—**Graves, N.J. (High Sticking), 14:00.

OVERTIME: 3. N.J., Hamilton 1 (Hischier, Bratt), 11:36. **Penalties—**None.

SHOTS ON GOAL: N.J. 11-6-7-5—29. N.Y. Rangers 12-12-6-8—38. Power-play conversions—N.J. 1 of 3. N.Y. Rangers 0 of 5.

GOALIES: N.J., Schmid 1-0-0 (36 shots-35 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Shesterkin 2-1-0 (28-26). Att—18,006 (18,006). T—2:59.

Maple Leafs 4, Lightning 3, OT

Toronto	2	0	1	1	– 4
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	0	– 3

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Tor., Acciari 1 (O'Reilly, Knies), 3:24. 2. Tam., Cirelli 2 (Hagel, Killorn), 4:50. 3. Tor., Matthews 1 (Jarnkrok, Marner), 11:10. 4. Tam., Hagel 1 (Colton, Perry), 19:28. **Penalties—**Brodie, TOR (Cross Checking), 13:57. Kucherov,T.B.(Hooking), 14:21. Tavares, TOR (Hooking), 17:18.

SECOND PERIOD: 5. Tam., Raddysh 1 (Stamkos, Kucherov), 13:34. **Penalties—**Lafferty, TOR (Roughing), 15:10. Point,T.B.(Tripping), 16:41.

THIRD PERIOD: 6. Tor., O'Reilly 2 (Marner, Nylander), 19:00. **Penalties—**Raddysh,T.B.(Roughing), 5:04. Rielly, TOR (Roughing), 5:04. Kucherov,T.B.(Roughing), 5:04. Kucherov,T.B.(Fighting), 5:04. Stamkos,T.B. (Fighting), 5:04. Matthews, TOR (Fighting), 5:04. O'Reilly, TOR (Fighting), 5:04.

OVERTIME: 7. Tor., Rielly 1, 19:15. **Penalties—**None.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Tor. 8-8-6-6—28. T.B. 13-15-3-8—39. Power-play Conversions—Tor. 0 of 3. T.B. 0 of 3.

GOALIES: Tor., Samsonov 2-1-0 (39 shots-36 saves). Tam., Vasilevskiy 1-2-0 (28-24). Att—19,092 (19,092). T—3:20.

Golden Knights 5, Jets 4, 2OT

Vegas	2	2	0	0	1	– 5
Winnipeg	1	0	3	0	0	– 4

FIRST PERIOD—1. Vegas, Stephenson 2 (Theodore, Stone), 2:52. 2. Vegas, Eichel 2 (Pietrangelo, Stephenson), 6:18 (pp). 3. Winnipeg, Connor 2 (DeMelo, Dillon), 9:07. **Penalties**—Dillon, WPG (Fighting), 0:49; Kolesar, V (Fighting), 0:49; Whitecloud, V (Interference), 3:56; Scheifele, WPG (Slashing), 5:09; Dubois, WPG (Roughing), 5:09; Karlsson, V (Roughing), 5:09; DeMelo, WPG (Interference), 19:38; Stone, V (Roughing), 20:00; Dillon, WPG (Cross Checking), 20:00.

SECOND PERIOD—4. Vegas, Eichel 3 (Smith, Pietrangelo), 10:46 (pp). 5. Vegas, Kolesar 1 (Eichel, Amadio), 17:45. **Penalties**—McNabb, V (Tripping), 2:17; Samberg, WPG (Tripping), 10:10; Roy, V (Roughing), 18:06.

THIRD PERIOD—6, Winnipeg, Niederreiter 1 (Dubois, Pionk), 2:04. 7. Winnipeg, Scheifele 1 (Pionk, Connor), 14:08 (pp). 8. Winnipeg, Lowry 4 (Pionk, Namestnikov), 19:38. **Penalties**—Kessel, V (Holding Stick), 12:35; Dubois, WPG (Tripping), 19:57.

OVERTIME—None. **Penalties**—None.

SECOND OVERTIME—9. Vegas, Amadio 1 (Barbashev), 3:40. **Penalty**—Dubois, WPG (Tripping), 1:23.

SHOTS ON GOAL—Vegas 10-16-11-6-5—48. Winnipeg 6-5-16-5-1—33.Power-play conversions—Vegas 2 of 5; Winnipeg 1 of 4. GOALIES—Vegas, Brossoit 2-1-0 (34 shots-30 saves). Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 1-2-0 (48-43). A—15,325 (15,321). T—3:41.

Moore's moment especially sweet

[**Elliott,** from D1]

happened, you can't believe it."

Believe it. Because he earned it. "He's a solid player," Vilardi said. "I like Mooresy."

Moore has had to claw his way up to a regular spot on the left side with Phillip Danault and Viktor Arvidsson, a defensively responsible and often productive second line.

Moore, whose family now lives in Simi Valley, left home at 16 to play for Tri-City (Neb.) of the Tier I junior United States Hockey League. He played three seasons at the University of Denver but wasn't drafted. He signed as a free agent with the Toronto Maple Leafs and promptly became stuck behind a group of prime prospects. He spent a lot of time in the American Hockey League.

"There were so many first-round picks ahead of me," he said. "My goal was just to get my foot in the door."

The Kings acquired him and two third-round draft picks in February 2020 for goalie Jack Campbell (now Edmonton's backup goalie) and enforcer Kyle Clifford.

Moore, his linemates and the Kings' defense corps have effectively blanketed NHL scoring champion Connor McDavid, though McDavid broke through to score a pair of power-play goals Friday that gave the Oilers a 2-1 lead. The Kings matched that on a power-play goal of their own by Adrian Kempe.

The Kings got another power play in overtime, when Ryan Nugent-Hopkins was penalized for slashing, and they took control of the puck deep in Edmonton's zone. At one point the puck popped up in the air and Vilardi raised his stick, hitting Edmonton defenseman Mattias Ekholm in the back. Moore scored 17 seconds later, but the NHL hockey operations department initiated a review to determine if Vilardi had struck the puck "above the normal height of his shoulders," which would have wiped out the goal.

After a long review, the league said there was no conclusive video evidence to determine that Vilardi had touched the stick and that the original call of a goal was confirmed, to the delight of a crowd that celebrated loud and hearty a second time.

Vilardi said Saturday he didn't know if his stick had made contact with the puck and altered its course. "I watched it and I don't think it did, to be honest with you," he said. "Things happened fast. Depends on who you ask. There's winners and losers. Everyone's going to complain."

The Kings had no complaints. They're leading the series despite injuries that led to the long-term absence of forward Kevin Fiala and, in Game 3, the absence of third-line center Blake Lizotte. Fiala skated Saturday wearing a red, no-contact jersey and coach Todd McLellan said if all went well, Fiala would participate in Sunday's game-day skate. Lizotte didn't skate Saturday, making his return for Game 4 unlikely.

Although the Kings have the upper hand at the moment, that could change quickly. McDavid is too explosive to be silenced for long. At some point, Leon Draisaitl just might stop taking bad penalties.

"I think we have another level to get to. I still think that we played well last game but we can still be better," Moore said. "Just in all the areas: competing, making sure we're paying attention to detail. We want to continue to stay out of the box. That's an important thing. But just bring it up another level. It's only going to get more competitive now."

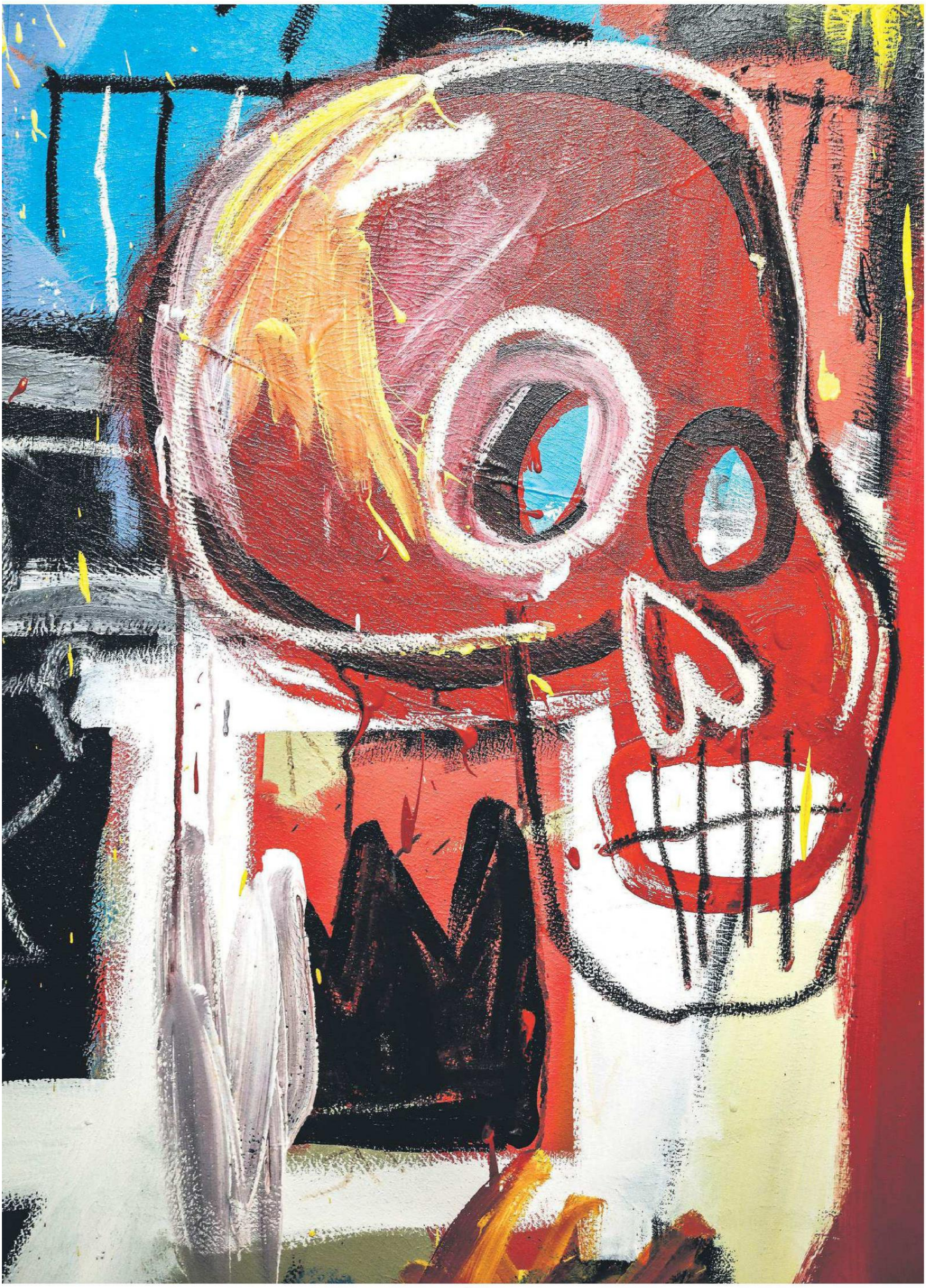
Challenges have never deterred Moore before. It's a longer way from Thousand Oaks to the NHL than it appears on an app or a map, but Moore has found his place and his moment.

WSCE

Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023 ∷ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR



BASQUIAT IN L.A.

THE N.Y. ARTIST HIT A CREATIVE SPARK ON THE WEST COAST. A NEW EXHIBITION TELLS HIS STORY. E4

Untitled work by Jean-Michel Basquiat from "King Pleasure." Photograph by Christina House Los Angeles Times

'Blood In Blood Out' creators look back. **E2** | Modern love for Rachmaninoff. **E6** | David Grann's new book hits the high seas. **E8**

Illustration by SAMÜEL CORTEZ and RUBY BROOBS For The Times

THE VATOS LIVE ON

‘BLOOD IN BLOOD OUT’ CREATORS MARK THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INFLUENTIAL CHICANO FILM AND WHAT IT TOOK TO MAKE ‘SOMETHING THAT’S TRUE TO THE BONE’

BY CARLOS AGUILAR

ON A RECENT EVENING OUT with a friend at La Cita Bar, the downtown L.A. nightclub that has historically catered to Latino patrons, Oscar-winning director Taylor Hackford made a bold statement. ¶ “I bet you that 90% of the people in this bar right now have seen ‘Blood In Blood Out,’ ” he told his companion, who thought the proclamation was a stretch. Hackford turned to the two Latino men sitting next to him and asked if they’d ever heard of the movie. “Cruzito is my favorite character!” one of them replied enthusiastically. Point proved. ¶ “Blood In Blood Out,” which turned 30 this month, stumbled at the box office but was saved from obscurity by fervent Latino audiences, who reclaimed it as a cornerstone of their representation in cinema. ¶ Released theatrically in 1993 as “Bound by Honor,” Hackford’s ambitious, decade-spanning story, set between 1972 and 1984, featured three up-and-coming Latino talents — Jesse Borrego, Benjamin Bratt and Damian Chapa — as inseparable members of the fictional Vatos Locos gang in East Los Angeles whose paths divert into incompatible directions. ¶ There’s Cruz Candelaria (Borrego), an auspicious painter who develops a drug problem following a tragic incident; Paco Aguilar (Bratt), a Golden Gloves boxer turned “traitor” after becoming a police officer; and Miklo Velka (Chapa), a white boy with Mexican ancestry whose desperation for acceptance lands him in prison, where he quickly rises to a leadership position within La Onda, a dangerous Chicano crime family.

Credit for the lived-in sensibilities of the film goes to Jimmy Santiago Baca, a New Mexico poet who honed his craft in *la pinta* (prison). Chapa refers to him as a “modern-day Chicano Oscar Wilde,” while Borrego calls him “the Chicano Shakespeare.”

Together with paintings by the late San Antonio artist Adan Hernandez, including the mural “Carnalismo” in the final scene, as well as cinematography by Gabriel Beristain, the collective force of these Chicano talents conceived a wide-ranging portrait of the community “in its many subtleties and forms,” as Borrego puts it.

On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, The Times reminisced about the making, release and enduring timelessness of the Chicano classic with some of the crucial artists involved.

In the wake of the box-office success of the 1987 Ritchie Valens biopic “La Bamba,” which Hackford produced, the director envisioned developing other projects aimed at an eager Latino audience.

Edward James Olmos reached out to Hackford with a screenplay titled “Blood In Blood Out,” then written by Floyd Mutrux and based on a story by Ross Thomas, which Olmos hoped to turn into his directorial debut. The saga traced the foundation of La eMe (Mexican Mafia), the notorious criminal organization formed within the California prison system and originally led by Joe Morgan.

“With ‘La Bamba,’ there was no controversy, with ‘Blood In Blood Out’ there certainly would be, but I still felt it was a compelling piece,” Hackford recalled.

The fundamental elements of the story, which takes places in East L.A. and San Quentin State Prison, were already present then: Three young men (two half-brothers and a cousin), each with their respective struggles of identity set against the backdrop of the emergence of a powerful crime family. For Hackford, however, something was lacking.

“That format was there. It was the voice that I had a problem with,” said Hackford.

A native of Santa Barbara, Hackford had grown up around the Mexican American community, and in his years as a KCET reporter he often accompanied colleague Jesus Trevino to cover East L.A. Those experiences, he believes, convinced him that the text didn’t ring true. Still, he trusted Olmos’ instinct and reputation.

Citing creative differences, among them his decision to bring a co-director on board, Olmos eventually moved on to pursue what would become “American Me” with a different script about the same subject matter.

On the recommendation of Luis Valdez, the noted playwright and director of Chicano classics such as “La Bamba” and “Zoot Suit,” Hackford reached out to poet Jimmy Santiago Baca to rewrite the script. But a guarded Baca wasn’t interested in working for Hollywood. It was only after Hackford agreed to take a trip to New Orleans to get to know each other over copious drinks that the scribe accepted. And so Baca began to transfigure his first-hand accounts from 25 years of institutionalization, six of them in federal prison, into the lyrical fabric of the film. (Baca shared a writing credit with Jeremy Iacone.)

“Jimmy was so important to this because everybody else, including me, we were posers,” said Hackford. “We’re in the entertainment business, but Jimmy was in the joint. He knows about it because he lived it.”

Baca moved from Albuquerque to L.A. to immerse himself in the city’s Chicano culture. From the onset, the dialogue was essential to Baca’s intent.

“I wanted to use this buoyant Chicanismo language that we speak; the beautiful way that we transform language to meet our own cultural needs, our own legacy and our own inheritance from our *antepasados*,” Baca explained. “It was like giving the actors something that they knew already instinctively: the rhythms of the language, the metaphors, the imagery, the *cábula*, and how much meaning all that carries for us.”

Once fleshed out, Baca believed it had the potential to become “the Sistine Chapel of how we are trying to integrate into American society.” Each character drew from the people he’d known during his time incarcerated. And while he sought to stay faithful to the story of Joe Morgan, La eMe’s first non-Latino member, he did so without explicitly referencing him or any of the factions involved by name. La eMe became La Onda. The Aryan Brotherhood was the Aryan Vanguard.

Encouraged by the more than $50 million that “La Bamba” had amassed, Hollywood Pictures — a now-defunct label under the Walt Disney Co. umbrella that was run by Cuban American executive Ricardo Mestres — expressed interest in producing “Blood In Blood Out.”

Hollywood Pictures had been created by former Paramount Pictures executives Jeffrey Katzenberg and Michael Eisner, who knew Hackford from his Academy Award-winning drama “An Officer and a Gentleman.” Suddenly, a violent tale of loyalty, honor and *carnalismo* — brotherhood — among Chicanos became a Disney-backed, $17-million feat.

IT WAS INSIDE a casting office on Hollywood and Vine more than three decades ago that the life of actor Damian Chapa took an indelible turn.

There to audition for film called “The Bridge,” Chapa was asked if he would instead read for the role of Miklo Velka. Intrigued, he read the sides, which described the character as a “blue-eyed Chicano,” the child of a Mexican mother and an Anglo father.

“I automatically said to myself, ‘How is this happening?’ My whole life I was trying to fit in with my Chicano culture, the same exact way that Miklo was,” said Chapa.

Raised in Robstown, Texas, Chapa embodied the dichotomy of Miklo: His father was of Mexican descent and his mother had Irish heritage. His genuine grasp on the emotional struggles of the character set him apart from the many actors in consideration.

Miklo has become so entrenched in the fiber of his being, that in conversation Chapa often speaks about himself and the character as if they were one and the same. In talking about Chapa, Hackford does the same, “I keep calling Damian ‘Miklo,’ because he is.”

The Latino community’s unending fondness for Miklo has granted Chapa the sense of belonging he longed for growing up. “People say all the time, ‘Well, you’re not Miklo,’ but I go, ‘Maybe I’m not Miklo, but I understand Miklo more than a lot of people.’ ”

Author and journalist Shea Serrano, who dedicated his most recent book “Movies (and Other Things)” to Miklo, identifies with the character as a Mexican American who doesn’t speak Spanish and who grew up feeling not Mexican enough. “When I watched the movie for the first time, I was like, ‘I know all of this stuff that he’s feeling,’ ” recalled Serrano.

By the time Chapa officially joined, the other two co-stars had already been cast. Jesse Borrego came first. Originally from San Antonio, Borrego had starred on the

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12:50 3:45 7:10
CHEVALIER PG-13
1:30 4:20 7:10
WILD LIFE PG-13
1:10 4:30 5:15 7:30
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
4:10 PM
SHOWING UP R
1:20 7:20
AIR R
1:10 4:00 7:00
DOSED: THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME
1:00 3:10 7:30

TOWN CENTER
17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
CHEVALIER PG-13
1:20 4:20 7:20
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R
1:00 4:00 7:00
EVERYTHING WENT FINE
1:10 7:00
MAFIA MAMMA R
4:30 7:30
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
4:00 PM
AIR R
1:00 4:10 7:10
IVAN TSAREVICH AND THE GREY WOLF 5
1:00 PM

NEWHALL
22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
BEAU IS AFRAID R
12:50 7:10
CHEVALIER PG-13
1:10 4:10 7:20
EVIL DEAD RISE R
1:30 4:20 7:00
MAFIA MAMMA R
4:35 PM
THE POPE’S EXORCIST R
1:20 4:00 7:10
RENFIELD R
12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
AIR R
1:20 4:10 7:20
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG
12:50 3:00 5:15 7:30

GLENDALE
207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
BEAU IS AFRAID R
12:50 3:50 7:10
THE BEST MAN R
1:30 PM
BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN
4:10 PM
RENFIELD R
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:40
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
4:30 7:20
SHOWING UP R
1:10 4:35 7:35
TOMMY GUNS
1:10 7:00

NoHo 7
5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
BEAU IS AFRAID R
12:50 3:50 7:10
CADEJO BLANCO
1:10 4:10 7:10
TO CATCH A KILLER R
1:20 4:30 7:20
MAFIA MAMMA R
4:40 PM
RENFIELD R
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
1:10 7:40
AIR R
1:20 4:10 7:00
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG
12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40

CLAREMONT
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BEAU IS AFRAID R
12:50 3:45 7:10
MAFIA MAMMA R
4:40 PM
RENFIELD R
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
1:10 7:30
AIR R
1:20 4:20 7:20
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12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40

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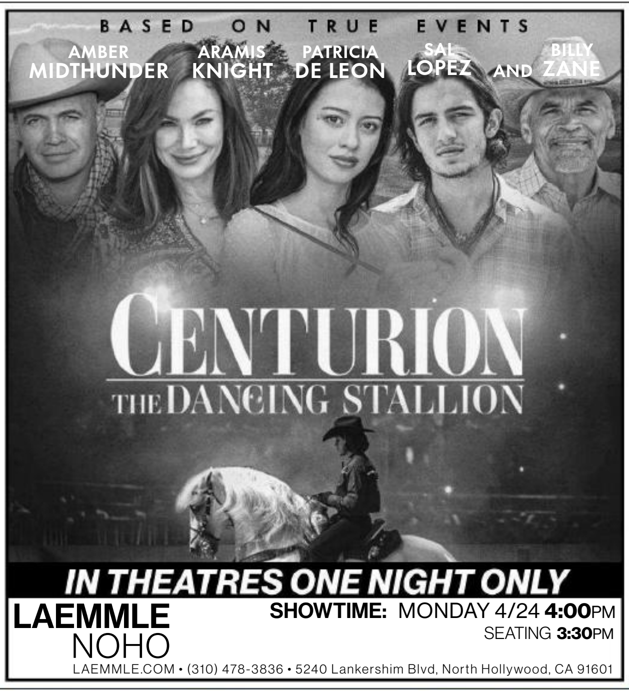

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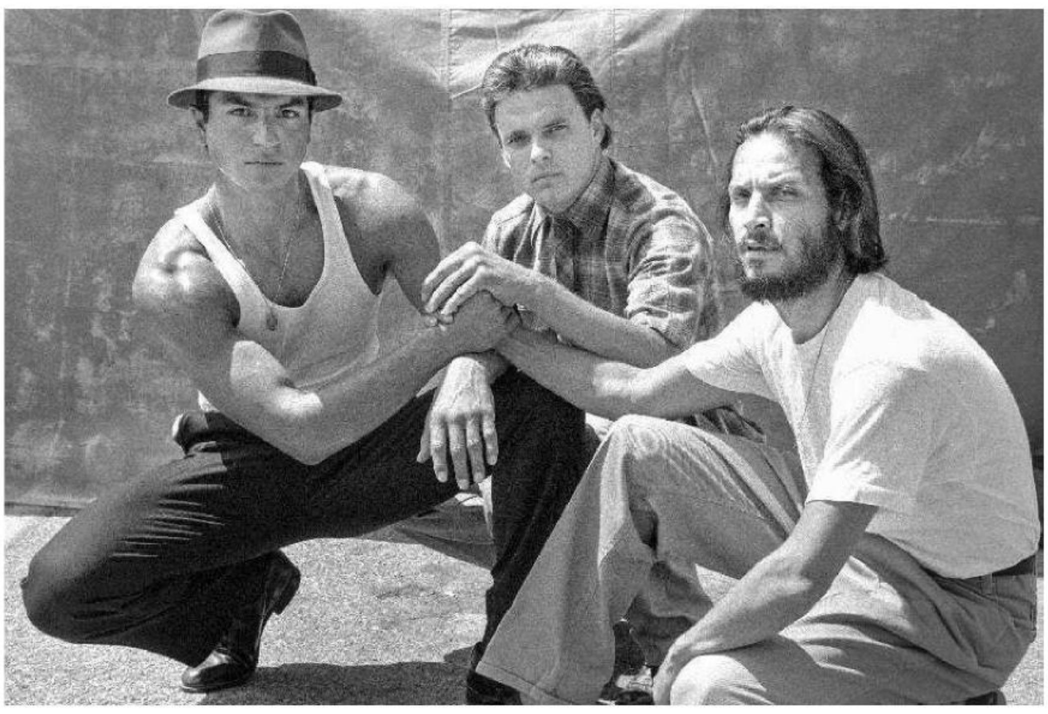


Photographs by MERRICK MORTON Hollywood Pictures

popular series "Fame" and was once considered for the role of Bob in "La Bamba." Fully bilingual and already an outspoken advocate for the dignified representation of Latinos in media, he became a key ally for Hackford throughout the production to avoid any falsehoods.

"Through Cruzito and the exemplification of Chicano art, I thought I could show how a *chavalon* from the barrio was just as talented as any of your mainstream artists," explained Borrego. "I was the proof. I was already a successful actor in the business."

Concerned with authenticity, having cast three actors from outside Los Angeles, Hackford asked them to move in together into a house near Hazard Park so that they could soak up the neighborhood and interact daily. In turn, the director also moved the film's production office nearby.

Every night, Borrego would host "Vatos Locos Tutorials," where he and his co-stars would go over the screenplay and instruct Bratt and Chapa on the colloquialisms of *Caló* (Chicano jargon).

"If I attained any degree of success in my portrayal within this film, a great deal of the credit has to go to what I learned from Jesse Borrego," said Bratt. "Not only about the notion of *carnalismo*, but about what it means to be a true and giving artist as an actor."

Living under the same roof, the three of them forged a fraternal bond.

"There was a kind of alchemy created in those two months living together that really bore out on the screen," said Bratt. "The relationships that you see reflected in the early part of the film feel very authentic because it was based on real experiences together."

In 1992, the L.A. riots erupted while Hackford was editing the film. The civil unrest worried Michael Eisner, the head of Hollywood Pictures.

"Eisner was really frightened that a violent crime drama might generate bad press for Disney. I wasn't happy about it, but I did kind of understand it," said Hackford. "Still, I was fighting for my film. What Disney agreed to was to test it."

The marketing team screened the film in a number of predominantly Latino cities without incident. But during the final test showing in Las Vegas, a fight broke out in the lobby. "That was enough for Eisner to say, 'Well, there it is. There's the proof. There's going to be violence,' " Hackford remembered.

Thankfully for the film, Frank Wells, then president of Walt Disney Co., had seen and liked it. They would release it, but under a less controversial, seemingly more uplifting name that, to their mind, wouldn't incite violence: "Bound by Honor."

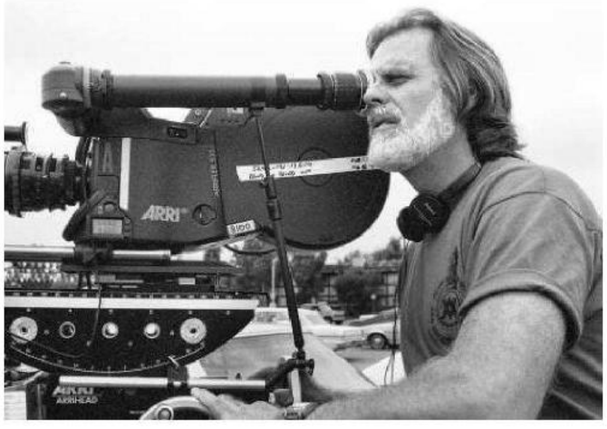
Before the Las Vegas incident, the studio's projections estimated the picture was on track to gross $40 million. Upon its release on April 16, 1993, with a new title and diminished promotion, the film only made $4.5. million.

Given the scope of the narrative, the resources at hand and the cast being a "who's who of who was working at the time within the Latino community," as Bratt puts it, the actors had high hopes for what "Blood In Blood Out" could do not only for their individual careers, but for Latinos in the entertainment industry.

"We really thought we were going to win Academy Awards," said Borrego. "We really thought that we were going to break the barriers. It was unfortunate that in the business decisions that studios make, we got left behind."

CHAPA SAW his career prospects vanish following the initial failure of "Blood In Blood Out." Few people had seen it on the big screen, and thus he felt nobody knew whether he was any good. They simply didn't see him all. But that changed.

"All of a sudden, about two years later, some kid came up to me and he said, 'I saw you in a movie.' And I was like, 'This is great. Somebody saw me in a movie,' It was the first thing I'd done. And I said, 'Where'd you see it?' He says, "I got it at Blockbuster.' "



STARS Benjamin Bratt, top left, Damian Chapa and Jesse Borrego, also seen in the illustration at far left. Director Taylor Hackford on set of the '93 film.

Chapa remembers hearing that "Blood In Blood Out" became the most stolen tape at Blockbusters ever. Although no evidence exists to corroborate this assertion, there's no denying that it was thanks to home video, released with its original title, that people discovered it.

It was on VHS that Serrano first watched the film as a teenager in San Antonio. That the film still enjoys enormous popularity among Latinos, Serrano and the actors think, derives from the union of Hackford's seasoned directorial skills and Baca's singular artistry.

"It felt like [Hackford] was trying to make Jimmy's script more than he was trying to make Taylor's movie," said Serrano. Baca agreed, and credited Hackford for fighting tooth and nail so the integrity of the story and its Chicano DNA were never compromised.

MORE ONLINE

Explore the L.A. landmarks featured in the film. *latimes.com/movies*

Shockingly, "Blood In Blood Out" isn't legally streaming on any platform, yet clandestine YouTube uploads of the entire film continue to make it accessible. "They're leaving money on the table," said Hackford. He believes the suits at Disney are not aware of what they have in their hands and its cultural relevance. But the people know.

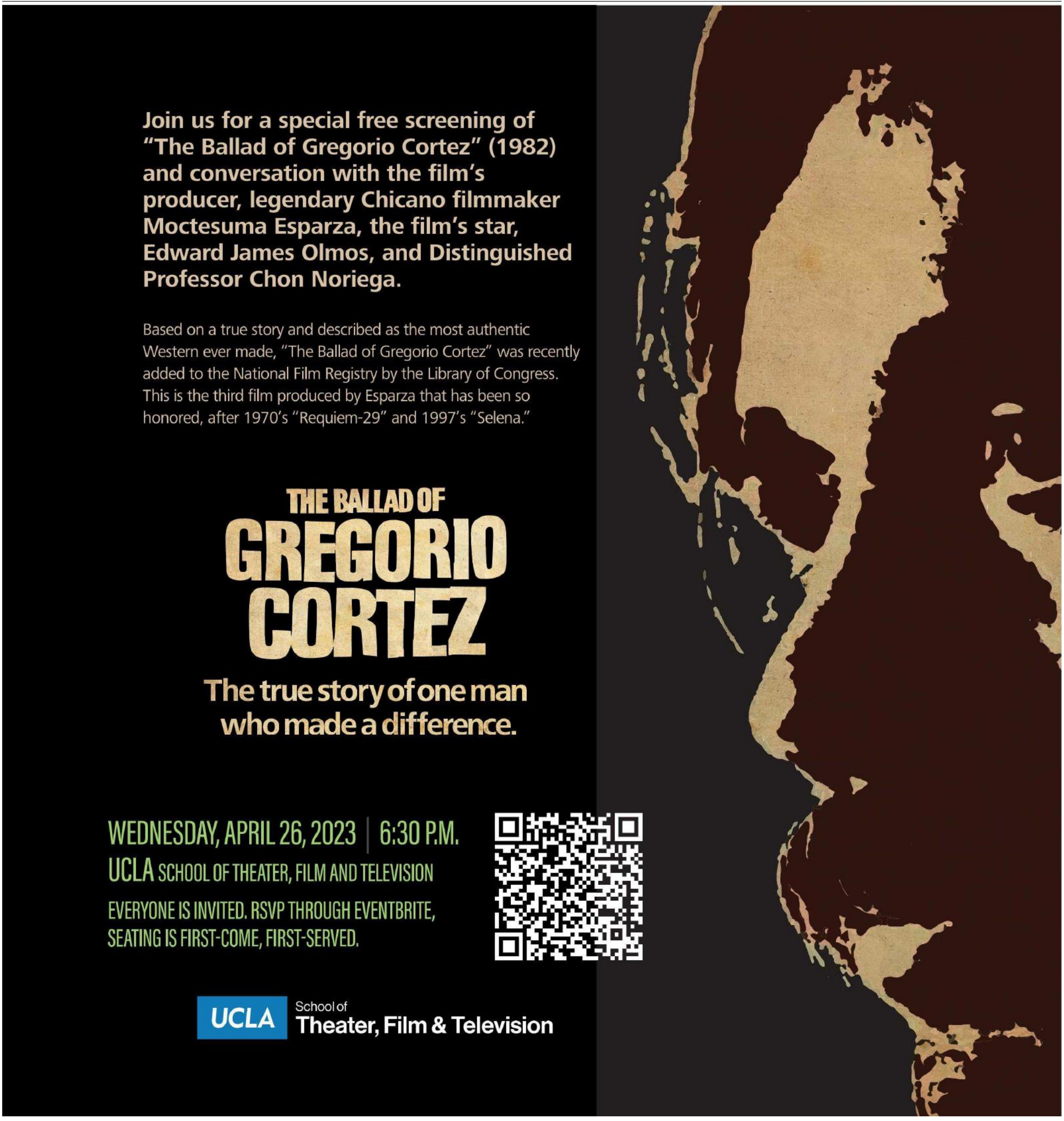
"The powers that be didn't support the film, but it was the people who gave it longevity. It was the people who gave it popularity. It was the people who consistently said, 'We love this film, it speaks to us,' " said Baca. "There's no greater satisfaction when you're a writer than when you touch somebody's heart in a way where it validates their life experience."

Borrego, who dubbed his own lines in the Spanish-language version, now often meets fans of all ages and nationalities at pop culture conventions or outdoor markets around the country. "The endurance of the film means that we accomplished our job," said Borrego. "Our award was to be with the *raza* for 30 years."

Meanwhile, Bratt recalls ordering a latte at a coffee shop in L.A., and when the drink came to his table it had "Vatos Locos Forever" written in foam.

"I've been in a lot of memorable films, a lot of films that are beloved by audiences, but none greater than this one in terms of the quotability of the lines," added Bratt.

For Chapa, there's one Miklo line that sums up how this experience forever altered his path. "It's the kind of line that lives forever," he said. It's a searing declaration that comes late in the film as Miklo inches closer to becoming El Mero Mero, and which in turn could also apply to how, despite being dismissed to oblivion in its day, "Blood In Blood Out" couldn't be kept down: "When you expect nothing and you get everything, that's destiny."



Join us for a special free screening of "The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez" (1982) and conversation with the film's producer, legendary Chicano filmmaker Moctesuma Esparza, the film's star, Edward James Olmos, and Distinguished Professor Chon Noriega.

Based on a true story and described as the most authentic Western ever made, "The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez" was recently added to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress. This is the third film produced by Esparza that has been so honored, after 1970's "Requiem-29" and 1997's "Selena."

THE BALLAD OF GREGORIO CORTEZ

The true story of one man who made a difference.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 | 6:30 P.M.

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BASQUIAT'S FRUITFUL LIFE ON THE WEST COAST

A TROVE OF RARELY SEEN WORKS BY THE NEW YORK ARTIST LANDS IN L.A., WHERE HE SPENT A PIVOTAL PERIOD

BY DEBORAH VANKIN

IN THE FALL of 1982, Jean-Michel Basquiat was living at art dealer Larry Gagosian's Venice Beach home, making swarms of new paintings in his private wing of the house. Gagosian had been "electrified" by the 21-year-old artist's work at New York's Annina Nosei Gallery about a year earlier. So he and Nosei collaborated on Basquiat's first West Coast exhibition, at Larry Gagosian Gallery, in the spring of 1982 — after which Gagosian invited the artist to move into his Market Street house so he could create new paintings for a second L.A. show in 1983.

When he wasn't working, Basquiat loved to shop for clothes at the high-end Maxfield Blue in what's now West Hollywood. But the New York artist didn't drive and Gagosian had temporarily lost his license, he says. So Basquiat's girlfriend at the time, a not-yet-famous singer named Madonna, then visiting from New York, drove the three of them around town.

Basquiat bought expensive suits at Maxfield Blue, but he was so intent on getting back to painting that he often didn't wait for the fashion boutique to finish tailoring them. He'd race home, pins still affixed to his new suit cuffs, and paint voraciously — still dressed in the suit. By the end of the day it was paint-splattered and ruined, as Gagosian recalls. But the works were incredible.

"He never stopped painting," Gagosian says. "He was able to be very productive in Los Angeles."

Basquiat is often thought of as a quintessential New York artist — and he was. He was born and raised in Brooklyn and worked at the intersection of Manhattan's prolific, experimental '80s-era arts scene and New York City street culture at the time. He died young, in 1988.

But Los Angeles was also pivotal to Basquiat's personal and artistic life. When the insular and sometimes critical New York art world became too much for Basquiat, whose friends and hangers-on would crowd his apartment at all hours of the day and night, he decamped to L.A. He spent about a year and a half living here for long stretches of time between 1982 and 1984 — at first with Gagosian at the Market Street house in Venice and then in a nearby studio he leased — and he produced about 100 paintings during that time.

"L.A. was a place for him to be by the ocean and just paint," says his sister, Lisane Basquiat. "He loved L.A. I think it calmed him."

A NEW EXHIBITION draws connections between Basquiat and L.A. while also offering an intimate and nuanced portrait of the artist, his work and his life, through the lens of his family.

"Jean-Michel Basquiat: King Pleasure" takes up four cavernous gallery spaces at downtown's Frank Gehry-designed Grand LA. The exhibition, which debuted in New York last April, was curated and executive produced by the late artist's sisters, Lisane Basquiat and Jeanine Heriveaux, now 58 and 55, respectively. Their 85-year-old stepmother, Nora Fitzpatrick, helped organize the show and it was co-produced by ISG Productions' Ileen Gallagher.

Since 2013, when their father Gerard Basquiat died, Lisane and Heriveaux have run the Basquiat estate. They spent about five years digging through their brother's artworks and personal effects — paintings and drawings, but also clothing, notebooks, dinner china, travel souvenirs — to produce the exhibition. The goal: to show from their point of view who their brother really was.

"What people don't always realize," Lisane says during a walkthrough of the exhibition, "is that he wasn't just this dude who sprung up from the streets, like his story began when he left home. He actually came from a family. And there was a lot of love in our home."

The exhibition includes about 200 works from the artist's estate, much of which has never been shown publicly before "King Pleasure." One section of the show, called "1960," includes Basquiat's framed birth announcement and his hand-drawn family tree. It also features digitized Super 8 films of Basquiat and his family. One shows the artist as a toddler, in a beret, tromping along a Brooklyn sidewalk; another has Basquiat and his younger sisters frolicking in Prospect Park.

A section called "Royalty" features Basquiat paintings that pay homage to Black cultural luminaries he admired — Grace Jones, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker and Sugar Ray Robinson, among them. "Place Jean-Michel" displays documentary film-style recollections, from friends and family, directed and produced by Heriveaux's 22-year-old daughter, Sophia Loren Heriveaux.

There are iconic works on view that Basquiat created, such as the figurative portrait "Cabeza" (1982) and an untitled black skull painting from 1983. Rare pieces include "Dry Cell" (1988), which the family believes to be the last painting Basquiat ever made. The artist gave it to his father, who had been admiring the work when the canvas was still wet. It's especially poignant, considering the two had at first clashed over the artist's unconventional career path.

Basquiat, whose father was a Haitian immigrant and mother was of Puerto Rican descent, created art that spoke to issues of his era. But his voice is still very much relevant today, says Sarah Loyer, a curator at the Broad museum, which has deep Basquiat holdings. "He speaks to the topic of equity — not just racial equity, but market equities and financial equity as well as representation and visibility. And there's a celebration of Black life that comes across — and that really resonates today."

What's unique about "King Pleasure," however, are the immersive environments by architect David Adjaye, who designed Washington, D.C.'s National Museum of African American History and Culture. Adjaye re-created spaces from the Basquiat family home along with Basquiat's last art studio in the East Village and the nearby Palladium nightclub, which Basquiat frequented. Visitors can wander through the club's Michael Todd Room for VIPs, with its gold-hued wall and lounge seating. The two enormous murals Basquiat created for the club's 1985 opening are on view there — they've never been shown outside the club before "King Pleasure."

In the art studio, it feels as if Basquiat just slipped out the door. His Comme des Garçons trenchcoat hangs in one corner; a blue sparkly shirt he often deejayed in at nightclubs hangs in another.

A NEW exhibition at the Grand LA, top, features rare Basquiat art as well as re-creations of where he lived and worked. The artist's sisters, Lisane Basquiat, above left, and Jeanine Heriveaux, brought the show to life.

The living room space is filled with the family's actual furniture and belongings. The Basquiat children's now-yellowed Encyclopedia Britannica books rest on a shelf; their father's stone ashtray sits on a mod-looking coffee table; and the home's original thermostat — the object of many spirited family debates in the wintertime, Lisane says — is affixed to a wall.

"All of this, it's part of the overall memory of being home with him," says Lisane as she takes a seat on the '70s-looking couch, with its geometric, earth-toned pattern. Behind her, towering projections of family photographs float across the living room wall.

Heriveaux says her brother was always creative, even when playing childhood games. Once, inspired by the movie "Mary Poppins," he persuaded her, when she was a toddler, to jump off an armoire with an open umbrella to see if she could fly. When the family lived in Puerto Rico from 1973 to 1977, then-teenage Basquiat would lather up the hallway floor with soap and water and the kids would foot-skate. "My dad was like, 'Oh, you're cleaning! Great,' " she recalls.

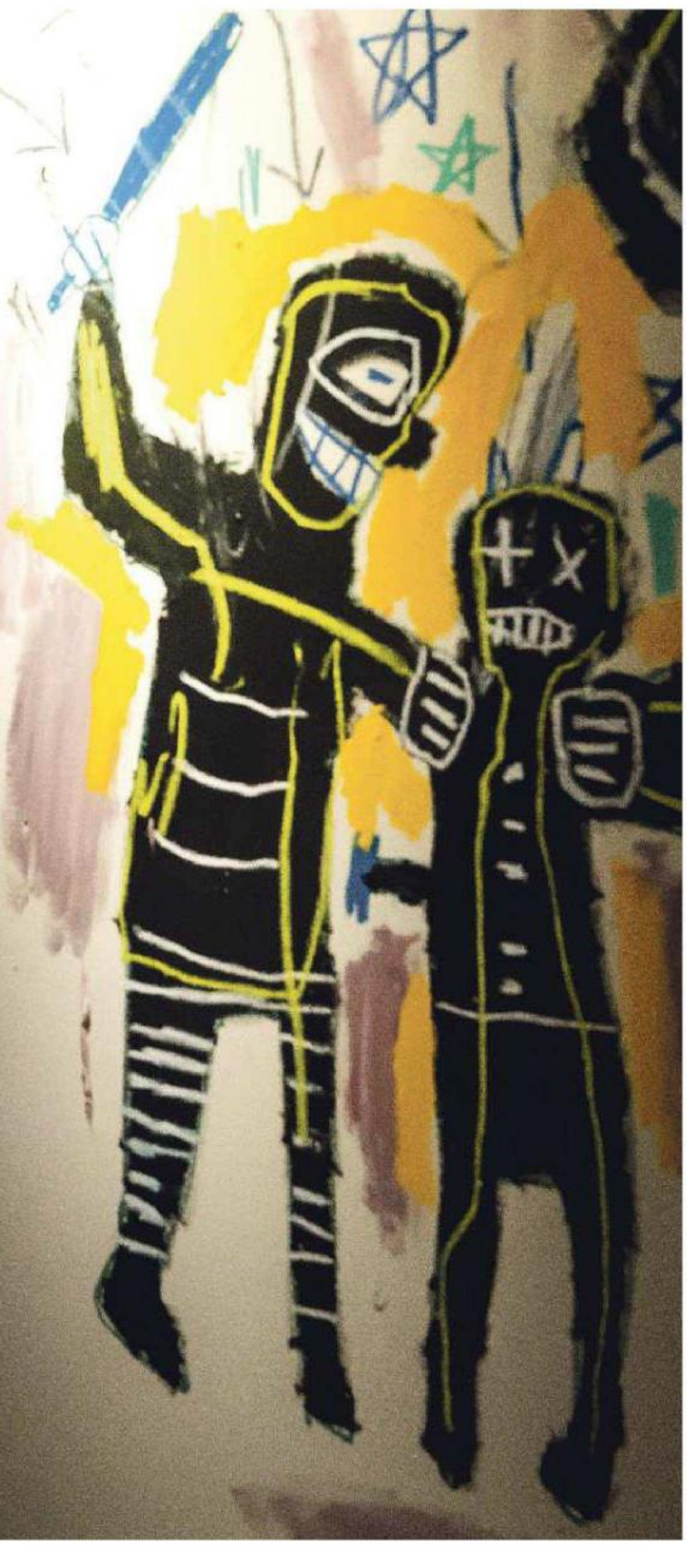
"We're his family," Heriveaux says. "So we understand the layers and complexity and the facets that made him the man that he became."

Basquiat later came up as an artist with Keith Haring and Kenny Scharf, sold his first painting to Debbie Harry, palled around with Andy Warhol and walked the runway for fashion label Comme des Garçons in Paris in 1987. He became a celebrity, and his mystique was only accentuated by his short rise to fame and untimely death, from a heroin overdose, at age 27.

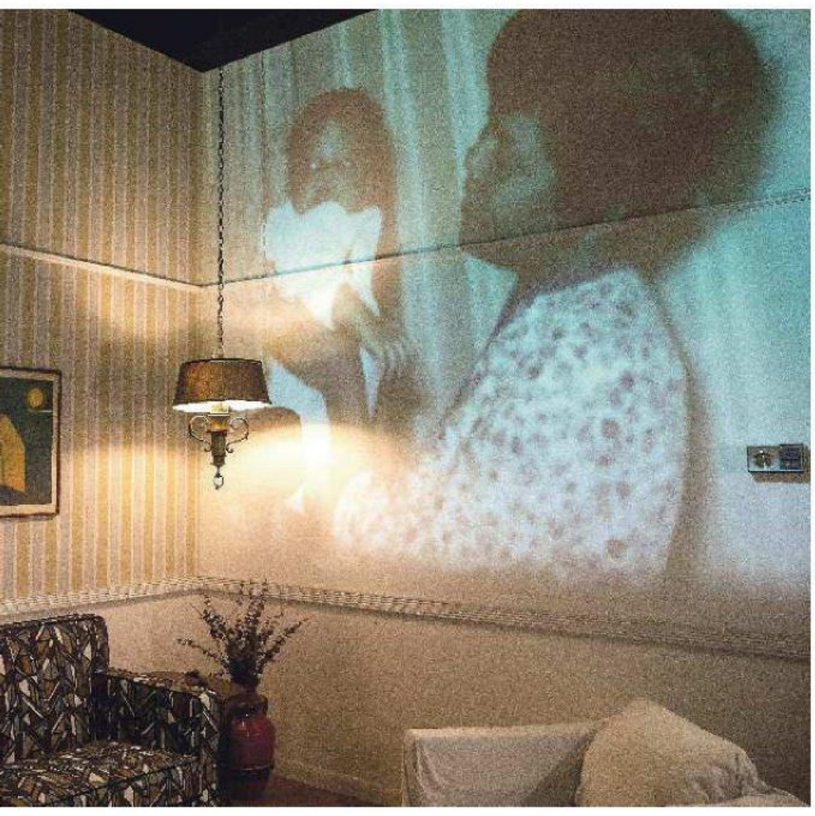
These days, Basquiat fever is still spiking. Across the street from the Grand LA, the Broad museum is featuring an exhibition of 12 Basquiat works from its collection — all of its Basquiat holdings minus one, which is on loan — and the show has been immensely popular, the museum says. The artist is just as in demand commercially: in 2017, Basquiat's skull painting, "Untitled" (1982), broke auction records when it sold for $110.5 million at Sotheby's.

Outside the exhibition, a towering portrait of the artist overlooks Grand Avenue. Weekday general admission to "King Pleasure" is $32, weekends, $35 (tickets are less expensive for students and seniors). The gift shop is open to anyone, even without a ticket. The show was a hit in New York, with more than 210,000 visitors in just shy of nine months.

The location is high profile, as well. The exhibition is the inaugural



Photographs by CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times



A REPLICA of the family living room from the artist's childhood home in Brooklyn created by architect David Adjaye, with actual furniture, belongings and family photos that are projected onto the wall, is a part of the show. The artist's estate funded the entire exhibition.

showing at the Grand LA, a mixed-use complex from Related Companies across the street from Walt Disney Concert Hall. The Gehry-designed compound includes hotel and residential towers — both of which opened in July 2022 — along with spaces, in the public plaza, for restaurants, retail and entertainment. Four of them house "King Pleasure."

That the exhibition is situated downtown makes sense, Lisane and Heriveaux say. Basquiat was always at the center of intersecting creative communities. They say the Grand LA was also a nontraditional venue that offered "texture" and which, practically speaking, had walls large enough to accommodate Basquiat's often enormous canvases. One of the Palladium murals, "Nu Nile" (1985), is more than 41 feet wide.

REGARDING commerciality, Lisane says that in order for Basquiat's family to "own the narrative," the estate paid for everything out of pocket — insurance, shipping, venue rental, exhibition design, construction, video production, staffing — and didn't apply for grant funding. Sponsors will help cover a mix of free and ticketed programming, still in development. Nothing in the exhibition is for sale, but Lisane and Heriveaux will eventually take a salary for more than two years of full-time work invested, they say.

"With social media, it's very easy to have an opinion," Lisane says. "People have made comments about licensing or 'Why isn't it free?' It takes money to do something like this. It takes money to ensure Jean-Michel's legacy is protected — and ultimately, that's what we're doing."

Lisane, Heriveaux and Fitzpatrick had been talking about creating an exhibition since 2017, but during the summer of 2020 they sprung into action.

"With all the things that were going on with the pandemic and politics, with all the murders and killings that were happening — of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor — we felt it was the right time to do it," Heriveaux says. "Because he had a lot to say. His paintings had a lot to say."

They spent hours on Zoom, whittling down thumbnails of Basquiat works, deciding what to exhibit. Sorting through his personal ephemera was an especially emotional experience.

"I was 21 at the time [he died]," Heriveaux says, "and sifting through all of these items really took me back to that moment of processing losing him."

"It was cathartic, actually," Lisane adds.

THE SHOW IS intended to be less of an institutional-style exhibition and more of a Basquiat *experience*. With insights about his life in L.A. scattered throughout.

One work, "Hollywood Africans in Front of the Chinese Theater With Footprints of Movie Stars" (1983), depicts a trip Basquiat made to L.A. with rap musician and artist Rammellzee and painter Toxic. It addresses the entertainment industry's marginalization of African Americans while also celebrating the artists' arrival, as Black men, in Hollywood.

Two works from 1984, both called "Untitled," are painted on what appears to be the wooden fence from the studio Basquiat leased a block from the Venice boardwalk. He had the slat fence removed and reconfigured it, turning it into supports for paintings. It was an important pivot in his work — when he got back to New York, he built new fence-like supports and made new works on them.

A more than 8-foot-tall mixed-media piece on view, "Tuxedo," is an altered version of a silkscreen print, also called "Tuxedo," that Basquiat produced in collaboration with L.A. art dealer, curator and art historian Fred Hoffman, now a leading Basquiat expert.

Hoffman recalls taking Basquiat and Madonna to lunch, in late 1982, at the commissary at 20th Century Fox. They sat in a VIP area, overlooking the dining room. "Madonna commented: 'Someday everyone in this room is gonna know who you and I are,' " Hoffman says. Basquiat? "He smiled and visibly blushed."

Gagosian says Basquiat loved riding his bike around Venice and eating lunch at Mr Chow in Beverly Hills. The artist produced "Portrait of Michael Chow" in 1985.

Basquiat visited Robert Rauschenberg six or seven times while Rauschenberg was making prints at Gemini G.E.L. on Melrose Avenue in the early '80s, says Gemini co-founder Sidney Felsen. Their interactions inspired Basquiat's more abstract drawings at the time.

He also spent time with Eli and Edythe Broad, who were early supporters of his work, acquiring all 13 pieces in the artist's lifetime. They visited Basquiat at his New York studio early on, and they invited him to their house in L.A.

Filmmaker Tamra Davis, one of Basquiat's first friends in L.A. and the writer-director of the 2010 documentary "Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child," says Basquiat "re-created himself in L.A."

"It was a new town and nobody really knew him here, so he could be more free. That's why he painted so much here."

Gallerist Jeffrey Deitch, who wrote about Basquiat for "Art in America" in 1980 and delivered his eulogy in 1988, says the artist's L.A. work reflects his environment. "The works made in L.A. were more open and colorful," Deitch says. "I think he was influenced by the light and space in Los Angeles."

Surveying one of the galleries, Lisane and Heriveaux both hold back tears.

"I'd like to think these are the works that had special meaning for him," Heriveaux says of the estate's collection. "Which is why he chose to keep them."

WHERE A WILDLY CREATIVE MIND HANGS OUT IN '80S L.A.

10 OF BASQUIAT'S FAVORITE HAUNTS, FROM BEVERLY HILLS TO MULHOLLAND DRIVE

BY DEBORAH VANKIN

ARTIST JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT, born and raised in Brooklyn, was integral to Manhattan's experimental, 1980s-era art scene. But the late artist had an important history in Los Angeles. He spent about a year and a half living here between 1982 and 1984. He at first stayed with art dealer Larry Gagosian at his Market Street house in Venice. Later, Basquiat leased a nearby studio. ¶ Basquiat returned to L.A. throughout the '80s and sometimes made stopovers here on his way to and from Hawaii, where he liked to vacation. While living here, he was extremely focused and prolific — he made about 100 paintings in that time. ¶ Many of Basquiat's favorite haunts, such as the nightclub Power Tools — co-founded by Jon Sidel and Matt Dike and at which Basquiat DJ'd —are no longer around. Others, such as the original Spago restaurant, the Maxfield Blue store and Larry Gagosian Gallery, have changed locations and, in some cases, tweaked their names (the store is now Maxfield, the gallery is Gagosian). ¶ But some of the places around town where Basquiat enjoyed spending time are still here. Here are a few of them.

From Mr Chow

MR CHOW

Mr Chow was one of Basquiat's favorite lunch spots in the early '80s. He often went there with Madonna, whom he was dating at the time, and art dealer Larry Gagosian.
344 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills, mrchow.com

CHRIS PIZZELLO Invision / AP

CHATEAU MARMONT

When Basquiat visited L.A. for his first West Coast exhibition, at Larry Gagosian Gallery in spring 1982, he stayed at the Chateau Marmont.
8221 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, chateaumarmont.com

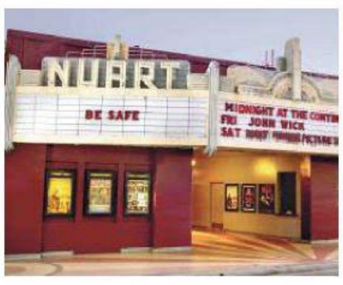
STUART PALLEY For The Times

GEMINI G.E.L.

Basquiat visited artist Robert Rauschenberg while the latter was making prints at the historic Gemini G.E.L. in the early '80s. Those visits inspired Basquiat's more abstract drawings at the time.
8365 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, geminigel.com

L'ERMITAGE HOTEL

In the early '80s, Basquiat lived in a Venice studio a block from the beach. But the artist also stayed, for stretches of time, at L'Ermitage Hotel in Beverly Hills while painting in his studio by day. Writer-director Tamra Davis' 2010 documentary, "Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child," includes interviews with the artist shot at the hotel.
9291 Burton Way, Beverly Hills, lermitagebeverlyhills.com



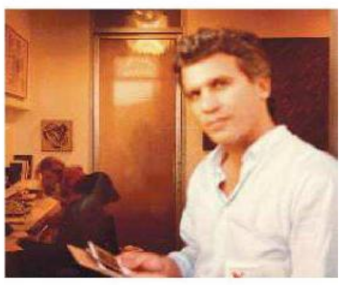
JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

NUART THEATRE

Basquiat was a film buff and particularly loved the films of Jean-Luc Godard and Alfred Hitchcock. The Nuart Theatre was one of his beloved L.A. spots to catch a movie.
11272 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, landmarktheatres.com

SPAGO

After Basquiat's second solo exhibition in L.A., in 1983 at Larry Gagosian Gallery, there was a celebratory dinner for the artist at Spago, then on Horn Avenue in West Hollywood. The restaurant has since changed locations but has a storied history. Among the guests at Basquiat's party that night: rap musician and artist Rammellzee and painter Toxic, who'd traveled with him from New York for the event.
176 N. Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, wolfgangpuck.com



From Gagosian

GAGOSIAN

Art dealer Larry Gagosian arranged for Basquiat's first West Coast exhibition in spring 1982 at his eponymous gallery, then located in West Hollywood. The gallery presented the artist's second solo exhibition in L.A. in spring 1983 — by then the gallery had moved to a larger space, also in West Hollywood. There was a 1986 Basquiat show there as well. The gallery is now called Gagosian and it's in Beverly Hills. But the connection to Basquiat is still deep: The artist lived with Gagosian in Venice Beach in late 1982-83 while making new works for his second show.
456 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills, gagosian.com

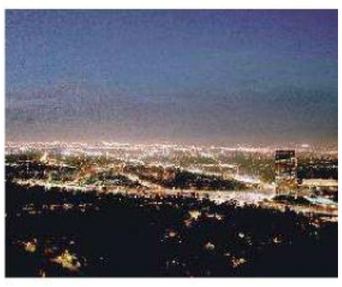
MAXFIELD

When he lived in L.A. in the early 1980s, Basquiat loved to shop for clothes at the Maxfield Blue boutique, then located in West Hollywood. The store now is called Maxfield and has locations on Melrose Avenue in West Hollywood and in Malibu.
8825 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, maxfieldla.com

DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

VENICE BOARDWALK BIKE RENTAL

After Basquiat moved out of Larry Gagosian's house in 1983, he rented a studio on Market Street, a block from the Venice Boardwalk and close to the ocean. Basquiat didn't drive, so when he wasn't working, he got around Venice by bike.
517 Ocean Front Walk, #1, Venice, veniceboardwalkbikerental.com



ROB GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

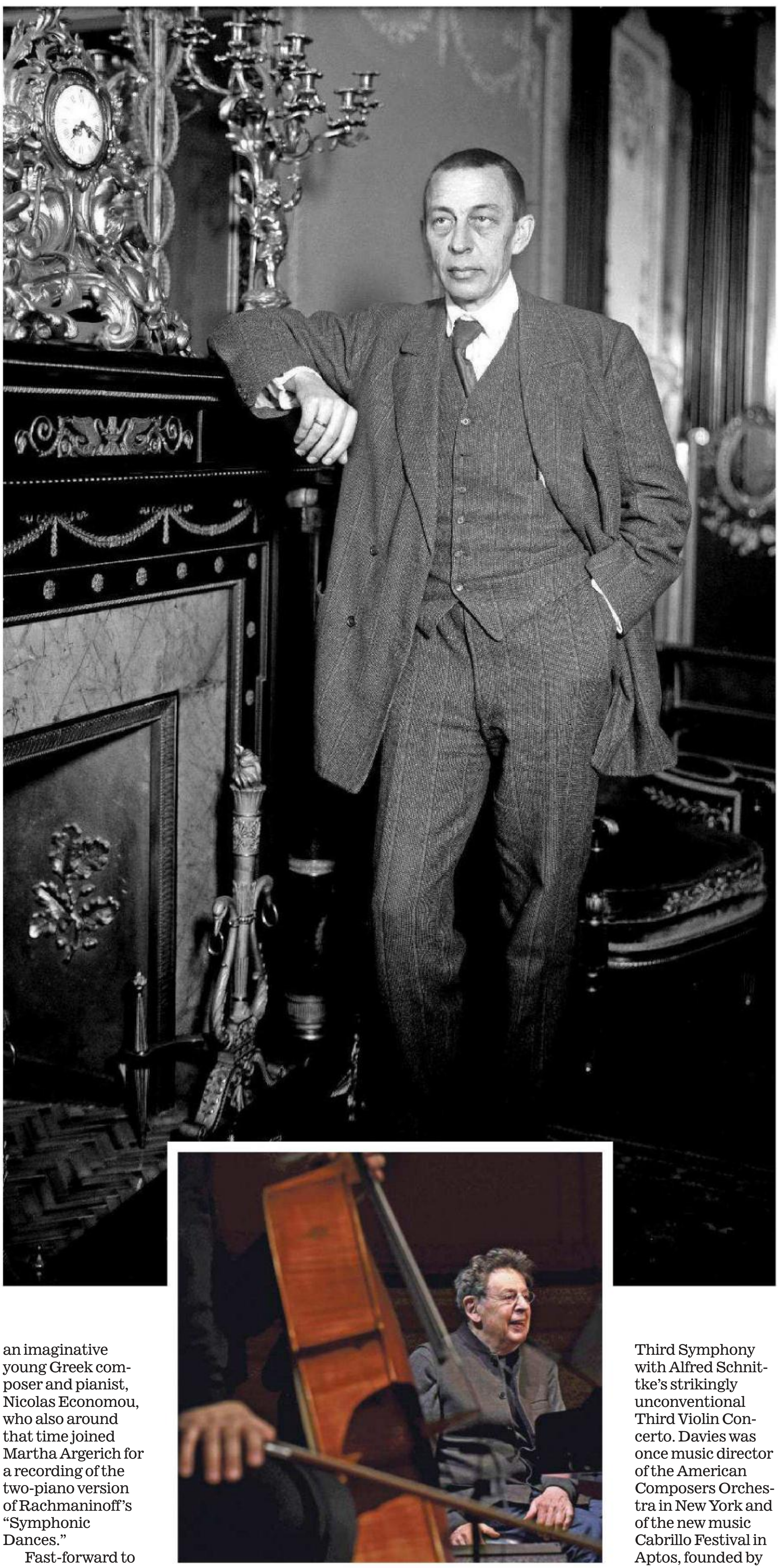
MULHOLLAND DRIVE LOOKOUT POINT

Basquiat didn't drive — when he was living in L.A., friends such as filmmaker Tamra Davis and music executive Matt Dike drove him around. When Madonna visited, she took the wheel. Regardless of who drove, Basquiat loved to ride along Mulholland Drive at night, taking in the sparkling city lights. This lookout point has one of the best views.
8591 Mulholland Drive, Los Angeles, mrca.ca.gov/parks

A modern romance

RACHMANINOFF'S MUSIC, CONSIDERED FUSTY NOT SO LONG AGO, BECOMES CONTEMPORARY IN THE EARS OF ANOTHER GENERATION

MARK SWED MUSIC CRITIC



Universal Images Group via Getty Images, top; Ilya S. Savenok Getty Images

HIDEBOUND Rachmaninoff, top, once given a wide berth in modern music circles, has come to be embraced however subtly in works by Philip Glass, above, and other composers.

THE FIRST sounds I heard after arriving at Philip Glass' townhouse in Manhattan's then-bohemian East Village to interview the composer in 1993 were extraordinary. Glass happened to be in his kitchen listening to a radio broadcast.

"Rachmaninoff!" I blurted out in alarm.

"You know, this is very interesting," Glass replied. He had gone into the kitchen for something and became fascinated by Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 that happened to be playing.

In modern music circles, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and this notorious potboiler, in particular, was to be avoided at all costs throughout much of the 20th century. In a fabled 1950 incident that has gone down in the history books, Morton Feldman, then a budding 24-year-old composer, introduced himself to the famed 37-year-old avant-gardist John Cage as both fled a New York Philharmonic concert at Carnegie Hall. Each had come to hear a rare Anton Webern performance but had no intention of staying for Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances." Half a century later, Carnegie mounted a three-day festival, "When Morty Met John," celebrating the encounter the venue touted as a seminal event in its and American music's history.

Was that day in 1993 in Glass' kitchen a When-Philip-Met-Sergei moment? Could be.

We are now in the midst of celebrating the 150th anniversary of Rachmaninoff's birth, on April 1, 1873, and it's been next to impossible to miss the Russian composer. Everywhere you turn, his music is being played, but in a radically different context than it had once been. Rachmaninoff has gone from being widely viewed as a musical archconservative to a proto-modernist.

His music now fits snuggly in programs with just about anything you want, including that of the famed Hungarian avant-gardist György Ligeti, whose birth centennial is also being celebrated this year. Rachmaninoff and Glass or John Adams or Stravinsky or even Schoenberg? Now a no-brainer. Last summer, the erudite Bard Music Festival in New York examined Rachmaninoff as "one of the last great Romantics" who "navigated between Russia and modernity."

Recently at the Soraya, the inquisitive young pianist Conrad Tao celebrated the Rachmaninoff anniversary by combining him with Billy Strayhorn, Stephen Sondheim, Irving Berlin and Harold Arlen. Who knew that Rachmaninoff's Prelude in G, Opus 32, No. 5 might make a suitable prelude to "Take the A Train"?

Events of the last few weeks and more to come have, in fact, demonstrated that Los Angeles plays an unrecognized and not insignificant role in all this, and particularly the Glass-Rachmaninoff relationship.

It begins in 1919 with Los Angeles Philharmonic founder William Andrews Clark inviting Rachmaninoff to be the orchestra's first music director. The composer, then 47 and also a celebrated pianist and conductor, had fled the Russian Revolution two years earlier, to live in the West.

Rachmaninoff refused. He was temporarily living in Menlo Park at the time, and the young composer Henry Cowell, who would later serve as a mentor to Cage, went to see him. Rachmaninoff told Cowell his music was nothing but wrong notes yet encouraged him to continue to experiment, nonetheless. Rachmaninoff said he once wrote "wrong notes" too. That's how you grow. Cowell took that to mean simply continue on his wrong-note path and, in the process, created what we now think of as the eclectic West Coast style, which looks East as well as West.

I MIGHT NOT have been so surprised by Glass' Rachmaninoff moment had I recalled that nine years earlier, Glass had been engaged by Robert Wilson to write two of the sections of what was going to be an eight-hour, eclectic operatic extravaganza unlike anything previously imagined as the centerpiece of the 1984 L.A. Olympic Arts Festival. Each of the several proposed sections to "the CIVIL warS: a tree is best measured when it is down" was created in a different country and the whole thing was meant to be given at the Shrine Auditorium, although U.S. funding fell through at the last minute. Most of the sections were created, including one in Rotterdam, with music by an imaginative young Greek composer and pianist, Nicolas Economou, who also around that time joined Martha Argerich for a recording of the two-piano version of Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances."

Fast-forward to a recital by Yuja Wang a year ago at Walt Disney Concert Hall. One of her encores was Glass' Piano Etude No. 6. Wang's virtuosic wizardry transformed a somewhat modest, minimalistic exercise into something downright Rachmaninoff-ian, full of extraordinary, heart-pumping dramatic contrasts.

Her next appearance at Disney was in February for — what else? — Rachmaninoff. Over a span of two weeks, she joined Gustavo Dudamel and the L.A. Phil as soloist in all five of the composer's scores for piano and orchestra. The festival drew an excitedly diverse and trendy crowd, with Wang's electrifying currency making Rachmaninoff sound as hip as Glass.

On Super Bowl Sunday, I rushed from Wang's exhilarating matinee performance of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 to an all-Glass concert in Santa Monica by the new music series Jacaranda. That program showcased similarly exhilarating performances of Glass' early "Music in Similar Motion" and "Music in Contrary Motion." It began, however, with composer and pianist Timo Andres playing his own eloquent take on none other than Glass' Piano Etude No. 6, which he then repeated as an encore.

It doesn't stop there. Three days later at the Soraya, there was an appearance by Brno Philharmonic playing a program of its native Czech music and led by its American music director, Dennis Russell Davies. Davies just happens to be a leading Glass exponent who has premiered the majority of the composer's symphonies, concertos and operas. He is also a fine pianist, and it was he who proposed to Glass the idea of writing a series of piano etudes. The first group of six became a birthday present to Davies.

Then — wouldn't you know it? — shortly after Davies returned to Brno with his orchestra (which has just released a recording of Glass' Symphony No. 12, "Lodger," featuring Angélique Kidjo), he led a concert that pitted Rachmaninoff's Third Symphony with Alfred Schnittke's strikingly unconventional Third Violin Concerto. Davies was once music director of the American Composers Orchestra in New York and of the new music Cabrillo Festival in Aptos, founded by the quintessential California composer Lou Harrison (another Cowell mentee). Davies' clear, incisive Rachmaninoff reading, which I caught on a livestream of the Brno concert, contained the coolness of Aaron Copland yet flowed with the melodic lyricism of Harrison. Played by musicians from Leoš Janácek's hometown, Rachmaninoff easily here took his rightful place in 20th century music.

It has reached the point today that any hardcore new music advocate needing to escape Rachmaninoff in the concert hall had better have a good pair of running shoes. Argerich's Rachmaninoff recording with Economou, which sounds almost like electronic music when listened to today, may have set the modernist Rachmaninoff tone. Another arresting two-piano Rachmaninoff recording made by Argerich eight years later with the mystical composer and pianist Alexandre Rabinovitch (now Rabinovitch-Barakovsky) is even more modern-sounding and, in my book, one of the great, yet neglected, piano recordings of our time. But it was a 2009 concert in Germany that fully turned the tide.

Serbian pianist Tamara Stefanovich alternated six Rachmaninoff "Etudes-Tableaux" with six etudes by Ligeti that exploit all kinds of late 20th century techniques. So explicit was the fit that Pierre Boulez, who had no patience with throwback Romanticism, said that Rachmaninoff's piano music can be interesting.

Succeeding music directors of the Boulez-founded Ensemble Intercontemporain have come to embrace Rachmaninoff. Susanna Mälkki led a bracing account of the "Symphonic Dances" in its orchestra guise with the L.A. Phil last season. In January, David Robertson conducted the Finnish Radio Symphony in a bracing program of Ligeti's "San Francisco Polyphony," John Adams' "Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes?" (written for Wang and premiered by the L.A. Phil) and Rachmaninoff's First Symphony.

In fact, the L.A. Phil happened to be an outlier with its Rachmaninoff Festival, sticking only to the composer and not, as it often does, commissioning new or presenting recent works to go along with the old. But when the Pasadena Symphony last month featured the brilliant young Russian pianist Alexander Malofeev in a commanding performance of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, guest conductor Rebecca Tong introduced that with Chinese American Huang Ruo's "Folk Songs for Orchestra." For the Pasadena Symphony's upcoming program on April 29, Japanese conductor Kensho Watanabe will pair Carlos Simon's 2019 "The Block," which portrays the Harlem of Romare Bearden's paintings, with the "Symphonic Dances."

WHILE Stefanovich did find real commonality between Rachmaninoff and Ligeti, often in the cross rhythms and irregular counterpoint, much of what makes Rachmaninoff modern is simply our less doctrinaire ideas of modernity.

It is easy to point out that the composer enjoyed modern conveniences and took an interest in technology. He loved driving fast sports cars and speedboats. He paid attention to jazz and popular music. He kept company with many in the world of show business, including Noël Coward.

But what made Tao's program work as well as it did was the way it showed just how much attention popular and film composers paid to Rachmaninoff. "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," played with aplomb by Tao in a version inspired by Art Tatum, puts it all together. Rachmaninoff was a supreme melodist. He was one of the century's greatest pianists. And Tao, who had a huge technique and made the instrument thunder or be as quiet as a pin dropping, put it all together.

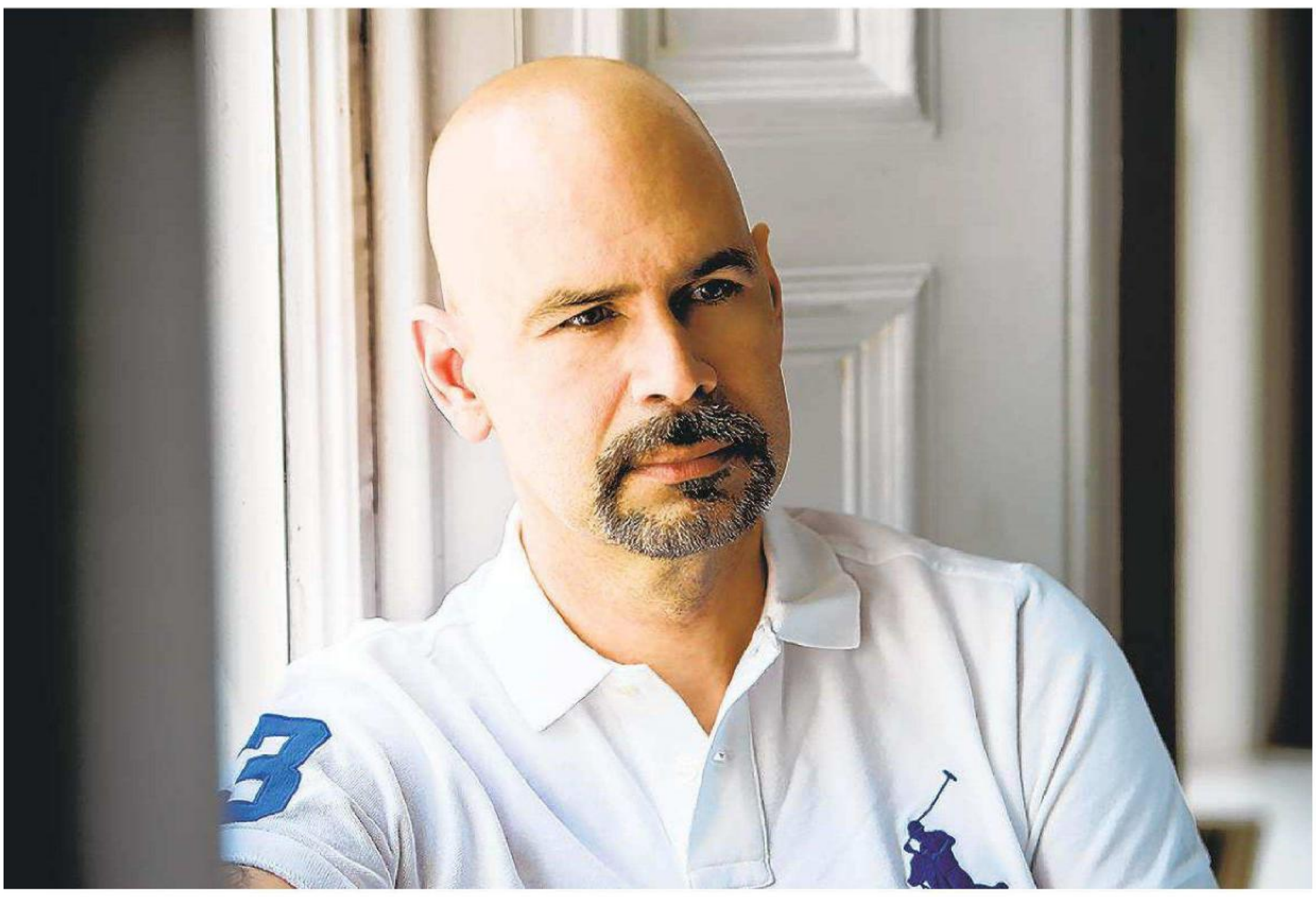
Strayhorn's melancholic "Lush Life" might well have represented the lush life Rachmaninoff led all the while pining for the old Russia that no longer existed. He never returned to his homeland. The composer, who died in 1943, spent his last two years in Beverly Hills, where he had bought a house on North Elm Drive.

Tao ended his recital joined by Jay Campbell for Rachmaninoff's early Cello Sonata. Campbell, the cellist in the JACK Quartet and one of the most remarkable proponents of new music, was restrained and seemingly noncommittal, barely heard at times, letting the pianist dominate.

But if that led to a disconnect, suggesting that perhaps Rachmaninoff can only be modern up to a point, the chamber music ensemble Camerata Pacifica planned to give it another go. Its recent program performed in Ventura, San Marino, L.A. and Santa Barbara was slated to include contemporary works along with an intriguing new arrangement of the slow movement of Rachmaninoff's Cello Sonata for French horn.

Even Feldman now fits into the Rachmaninoff picture. Next up for Tao is an appearance at Bang on a Can's Long Play Festival in Brooklyn on the first weekend of May. The pianist here will be joined by another exceptional modernist, percussionist Tyshawn Sorey, for a performance of Feldman's "Triadic Memories."

That long, slow, quiet score may not sound at all like Rachmaninoff. But it does show that the memories of triadic harmony, so close to the Russian tradition, return in new ways in the works of both Feldman and Glass. It is worth further pondering what the connoisseur of fast cars would have made of these Americans, sons of Russian and Lithuanian immigrants, respectively.



Marte Lundby Rekaa

TROUBLE AT HOME

EXILE FROM A HOMOPHOBIC U.S. IMPELS A LAWYER TO WRITE WHAT HE KNOWS

BY DANIEL A. OLIVAS

UNLIKE MOST WRITERS I know, I did not earn an MFA in creative writing after college. Instead, with a degree in English literature in hand, I went to law school and became an attorney. Perhaps I carried with me the heartache of my late father, who had dreams of becoming a published author in the late 1950s and early '60s as he worked the night shift at a factory. Publishers were even less hospitable to Chicano writers than they are now, so after being rejected repeatedly, my father burned all his writing — a novel and poetry — and focused his energies on raising a family and getting educated. I assumed I'd follow the same path. ¶ But the call of the writing life was too strong. I started to write fiction and poetry that reflected my life as the grandson of Mexican immigrants. The publishing world was much more open to my writing than it was to my father's, and 25 years later I have published 10 books and two anthologies while practicing law.

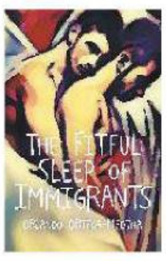
So it is not surprising that I have a particular interest in writers who are also lawyers. (There are quite a few of us.) Among them is Orlando Ortega-Medina, whose new novel, "The Fitful Sleep of Immigrants," is deeply rooted in both the world of law and his experiences as a gay, Latino, Jewish man facing a broken immigration system and the homophobia of the 1990s.

Ortega-Medina was born in Los Angeles to Sephardic immigrants from Cuba. He studied English literature at UCLA, earned a law degree from Southwestern University, began as a criminal defense attorney and then moved to San Francisco, where he transitioned to representing clients in appeals, post-conviction relief and deportation defense.

But in 1999, Ortega-Medina and his life partner moved to Canada in search of greater freedom, and in 2005 they were among the first same-sex couples in the Western Hemisphere to marry. Nine years later, when the United Kingdom allowed same-sex couples to solemnize their marriages in religious ceremonies, Ortega-Medina and his husband married in a Jewish ceremony at West London Synagogue. They settled in London, where they live today.

With Ortega-Medina's biography in mind, readers will recognize the conflicts that play out in "The Fitful Sleep of Immigrants." Marc Mendes, a burned-out lawyer struggling with addictions and the disappointment of his prominent rabbi father, plans his escape from San Francisco to a slower-paced life in Napa Valley. But before he can fulfill his dream, the government summons his Salvadoran partner to immigration court under the threat of deportation. Marc's life gets even more complicated when a handsome but troubled client enters the picture. The result is a potent legal thriller that doesn't shy from major personal and societal issues.

Ortega-Medina spoke to The Times about his dual life in law and literature, the genesis of his latest novel and what he hopes readers will get from it. The conversation has been edited for length and clarity.



Bywater Books

PERIL in his own life led Orlando Ortega-Medina to write a legal thriller with immigrants at its core.

Can you talk about your journey from attorney to author?

I majored in English at UCLA. With graduation looming, I found myself torn between applying to an MFA program and going to law school, which was another interest of mine. Either way, I intended to pursue a career in creative writing at some point. So I sought counsel from the late Carolyn See, one of my writing professors. Without hesitation, she advised: "Get your law degree first; write later." So that's what I did. Once I finished law school, I picked up from where I'd left off and carried on writing in my spare time. It took another 20 years before my first book, [the story collection] "Jerusalem Ablaze," was finally published in 2017.

And what of the journey of your latest novel?

"The Fitful Sleep" began life 20 years ago as an intended memoir penned in exile. As I drafted the source material over the course of a long, dark Canadian winter, deeply bitter at having been effectively ejected from my country of birth, it became clear to me that a memoir forged in anger made for an unpleasant read. I lacked sufficient objectivity to produce anything better than 200,000 words' worth of sour grapes. Reluctantly, I shoved the manuscript into a drawer. Fifteen years later, I came across the material, dusted it off and began reimagining [it] as a novel, a format I felt better suited the subject.

Your novel is equal parts love story, legal thriller and social commentary. These three are perfectly balanced. How did you manage it?

I wrote the first draft from start to finish without reading it back. No advance plotting; no character studies; no genre considerations. I just wrote from the top of my head, usually for a couple of hours each morning before going to work. Needless to say, it wasn't very good at that stage. Although I had the broad outline, various elements didn't mesh well, and a few of the characters needed to be completely redrawn. So with the help of a trusted editor, I blew it apart and gave it another go, and then another, and another — until finally, everything clicked into place. Or so it seemed, until [my editor] Michael Nava got his hands on it, which led to a final revision. The fact it all holds together is credit in large part to everyone who collaborated on the project.

Do you have any plans to write that memoir you originally conceived?

No concrete plans at this point. But if I ever do write a memoir, it will chronicle not just the events leading up to our departure but also our life as expats, with all its attendant challenges. As an immigration lawyer helping people gain legal status in the United States, it has been fascinating to see it all from the other side — as an immigrant myself.

What do you hope readers get from your novel?

Given that marriage equality is potentially under threat in the United States from the more conservative elements in the country, I would like for readers to reflect, via the novel, on the hardship and unfairness experienced by multinational same-sex couples struggling to have their relationships recognized in law.

Olivas is an attorney, playwright and author of 10 books, including "How to Date a Flying Mexican."

Ortega-Medina will appear at Book Soup, in conversation with Olivas, at 7 p.m. April 27.

Wild and woolly in the best way

BY MEREDITH MARAN

FULL disclosure(s): One, I've been a fan of Ramona Ausubel's crazy-good novels and short stories since 2012, when the former Southern California resident burst, as they say, onto the literary scene with "No One Is Here Except All of Us." (Another novel and two story collections quickly followed.)

Two, my Ausubel fandom is notable because I'm *not* a fan of the "genre" fiction devices — sci-fi, magical realism — that Ausubel often employs. I like novels set in familiar geographical-emotional-historical territory. I'm generally more interested in adult human problems and architectures than those of nature or teenagers. So I worried I might not love Ausubel's new novel, "The Last Animal," which opens in permafrost-bitten Siberia; is informed by equal parts rigorous scientific research and wild speculation; and features teenage protagonists.

Yet love it I did. Devour it I did. Recommend it to everyone, I do.

As has been recognized by many critics and award-bestowers before me, Ausubel is a supernaturally gifted writer whose heart, soul, wit and intellect are evident in every wacky setting, character and plot line she weaves. Few authors can do what she does, seemingly effortlessly: spin saucy yet kind-spirited social satire while exploring a multitude of topical and archetypal subjects — all within a single work, all in sentences that sing.

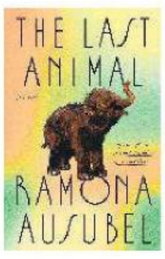
As evidence, I offer excerpts from a single page of "The Last Animal." Here Ausubel depicts the arrival in Siberia of an American research crew who's come to gather samples from which they hope to re-create prehistoric mammals that might protect the melting permafrost from global warming. The crew includes the book's three heroines: recently widowed paleobiology grad student Jane, who has been dogged by sexism in her male-dominated field, and her two feisty, fatherless daughters, Eve, 15, and Vera, 13. The novel is narrated by alternating points of view; the arrival scene belongs to Vera.

"Watching the people disembark was a herd of something very big, great hairy bodies and horns," Ausubel writes. "When Vera stepped out, the ground was spongy and dark. There was a grassy smell, the long-ago seeping out of the earth. … One animal hoofed at the ground, eyes on Vera, who reached a hand toward her big sister. The thing was ancient and matted and seemed made-up, like a great blanket with legs."

And tucked into the scene, a reminiscence of home: "In Berkeley everyone was gluten-free or vegan or lactose-intolerant or avoided nightshades. Even the teenagers ordered cold-pressed green juice instead of coffee (or they ordered coffee but it was single-origin and fair-trade and the cup arrived with a perfect leaf in the organic, grass-fed foam)."

You see what I'm saying: The long-ago seeping out of the earth. A great blanket with legs. And far away, a simulacrum of nature: a perfect leaf crafted in grass-fed foam.

Beowulf Sheehan



Riverhead Books

SCIENCE intersects with a family's bond in Ramona Ausubel's new novel.

Just because Ausubel is a stylist, don't mistake her for an author who favors literary pyrotechnics over plot. The novel's precipitating event happens 25 pages in, when Eve and Vera devise an outlet for their separate and conjoined grief. ("They had already gone a year with no father and they would never have one again. That fact took Vera's breath away every time she remembered it.") After a miles-long hike to the tundra's dunes, the two girls attack the sand in bursts of sorrow and anger, personal and political. "Vera kicked at the black dune … she wanted erosion. She wanted minor harm."

"Will our generation be the last on the planet?" Eve asks.

"Maybe not the very last," her older sister answers. "But our kids might not make it."

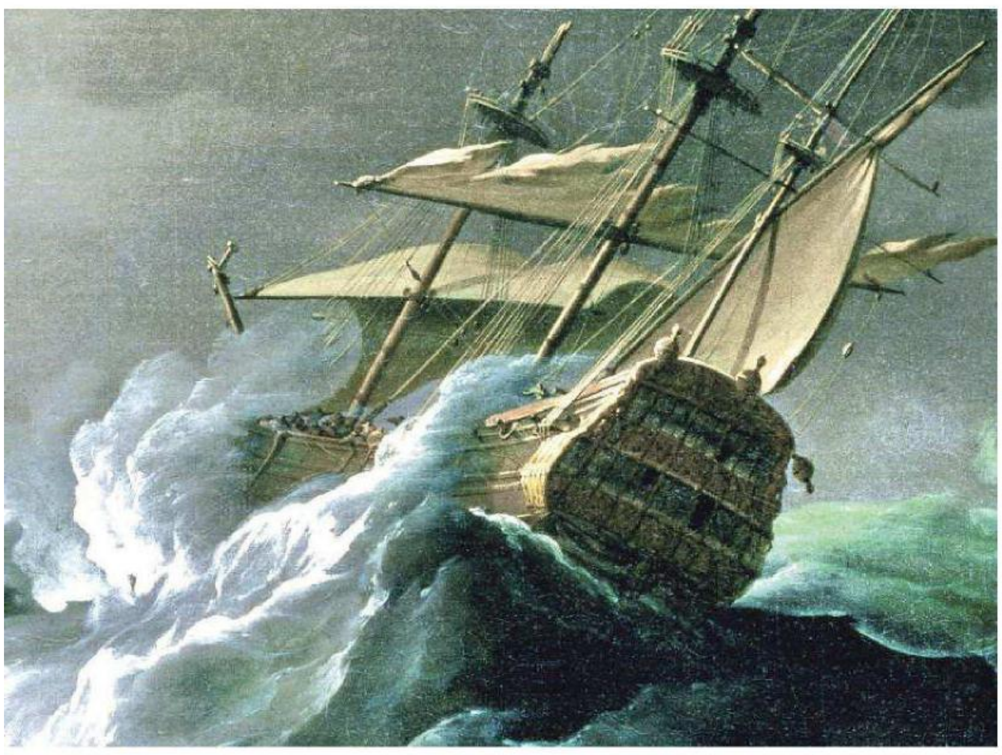
Eve's foot connects with something hard. She and Vera start digging and don't stop until they uncover something "sad and beautiful and perfect": an intact, frozen, 200-pound baby mammoth, soon to be nicknamed "Pearl." They drag the thawing creature back to their mother, to the scientists. For one euphoric moment, it seems the girls have changed the trajectory of their mother's misogyny-impaired life — and the planet's.

But then, back in the States at an Academy of Science gala, Jane, Eve and Vera watch, horrified, as Jane's male colleagues claim the discovery was theirs. "My entire job is to tell you that it's all okay, but it's not. I'm not," Jane fumes to Eve and Vera later that night. "I am expected to wear a dress with a low neckline and I am dismissed for wearing a dress with a low neckline. … I hate that I have dragged you here to see me humiliated. Again." As Jane's daughters beg their mother not to give up, the reader senses their yearning for their mother to protect herself from a world that stole their discovery and their father, so next time she might also protect them.

Post-humiliation, Jane is approached by multimillionaire Helen, who flies mother and daughters first to Iceland, then to her exotic animal preserve in Italy — and to the moon, promising to help Jane regain ownership of the genetic advances made possible by Pearl's unearthing. No spoilers here, but if Helen seems too good to be true, your suspicions might be satisfyingly confirmed.

Classic Ausubel, "The Last Animal" is many things. A mother-daughter love story. A global-warming warning. A fabulist fantasy. A sci-fi eco-scheme. A coming-of-age duet. A feminist critique of workplace misogyny. A study of grief. Even if none of these genres are your jam, I suggest you do what I do when approaching a work of Ausubel's. Forget everything you think you know about your reading tastes, sink into her weird world and prepare to fall in love with a 4,000-year-old baby mammoth.

Maran, the author of "The New Old Me" and a dozen other books, lives in Silver Lake.



Photographs from Doubleday

A brutal 'Wager' on the high seas

18TH CENTURY SHIP'S CREW ENDURES MUTINY, STORMS AND MORE IN DAVID GRANN'S SAGA

BY MARY ANN GWINN

WHAT IS IT about sea stories? Great writers in the tradition of Herman Melville, Joseph Conrad and Patrick O'Brian have used the self-contained world of a ship and its crew to tell stories of fear, greed and rebellion. A shipboard drama, whether it's a mutiny, a close-quarters battle or a desperate fight to survive the furious elements, shares in common with the locked-room mystery a cast of characters with warring motives and nowhere to go. ¶ New Yorker writer David Grann knows a good story when he sees one; his most recent book, "Killers of the Flower Moon," about a series of murders on the Osage Indian reservation in the early 1920s, went into multiple printings, and the movie version directed by Martin Scorsese is awaiting theatrical release. In "The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder," he has found not just a good but a great story, fraught with duplicity, terror and occasional heroism.

The story of "The Wager" begins in 1740. Britain was at war with Spain in a brutal struggle to claim uncharted territory. It was colonialism at its most naked and avaricious, and the battles were largely fought at sea. The Wager was one of eight ships in a squadron that launched from Portsmouth, England, and headed to South America, its goal to capture a Spanish galleon loaded with treasure — a prize that would enrich both the crew and the English government.

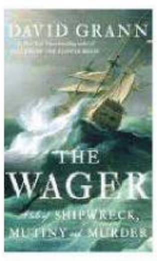
The Wager was a small ship, tasked with carrying trade goods, small weapons, gunpowder and the squadron's supply of rum (the analogy of the "powder keg" unavoidably comes to mind). The crew was a combustible mix of regular sailors, marines and impressed crewmen — impressment being a kind of slavery wherein men were kidnapped and forced to serve for an indefinite period.

Five hundred invalids from the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, many in their 60s and 70s, were ordered to fill out the ranks. As old as 80 and as young as 6, the Wager crew "had been thrown together as if they were subjects in a whimsical experiment to test the limits of human sociability," Grann writes.

That is putting it mildly. The venture seemed doomed from the start. The squadron immediately ran into trouble when typhus and then scurvy, a grotesque disease of vitamin C deficiency, struck down the majority of the crew. After another ship's commander died, the Wager's capable captain was transferred to replace him, and David Cheap, an untested officer who had never been in charge of a ship, was named captain of the Wager's crew.

As the squadron approached the tip of South America, the weather worsened; the other ships in the squadron began to turn back. But Cheap, who had just grasped the prize of command over the ship, wouldn't consider it, and ordered the Wager's crew to sail into some of the wildest seas and worst weather on Earth.

Many writers have tried to convey just how terrifying the waters around South America's Cape Horn were in the days of wooden ships and uncertain navigation, as boats battled wild winds, freezing mists and 90-foot waves against a surreal backdrop. One writer was succinct about this Mordor-like terrain: "a proper nursery for desperation." All this before the Wager passed into Cape Horn, where gales reached 200 miles per hour and subzero temperatures coated the ship with a carapace of ice.


DAVID GRANN
THE WAGER
A Tale of SHIPWRECK, MUTINY and MURDER

GRANN, no stranger to harrowing tales, delves into the days of wooden ships facing terrifying waters in a real-life account of a shipwreck.

One trick Grann pulls off — again and again — is not showing his hand, and this review honors that accomplishment by not revealing the details of what happens next. Suffice it to say that the Wager and what was left of its crew ran onto the rocks of an exceedingly bleak island off the south coast of Chile.

Given the documentation Grann works with, the reader can intuit that not everyone is going to die (though many do). But as Cheap loses control of his desperate men, starvation, mutiny and murder ensue. British bad behavior scares off a tribe of Indigenous rescuers. And the escape attempts of those who try to make it off the island are so brutal, hair-raising and implausible, the reader is left wondering just what makes some human beings so determined to survive.

Another Grann specialty is on full display — creating a cast of indelible characters from the dustiest of sources: 18th century ship's logs, surgeons' textbooks, court-martial proceedings. What a fascinating, conflicted lot they are. Cheap, whose driving desire to prove himself completely extinguishes his common sense. John Bulkeley, the Wager's gunner, a weapons expert and "instinctive leader" whose Bible-inspired narrative gifts would impel him to write an indelible account of events. "Bulkeley relished recording what he saw," Grann writes. "It gave him a voice, even if no one but him would ever hear it."

Then there was Midshipman Jack Byron, 16 when the Wager set sail, whose own account would inspire verse by his renegade grandson Lord Byron on the subject. In his poem "Don Juan," Byron would memorialize the low moment when starving crewmen killed and ate his grandfather's dog: *What could they do? And hunger's rage grew wild:/So Juan's spaniel, spite of his entreating, Was kill'd, and portion'd out for present eating."*

Besides poems, the story of the Wager would inspire books, a flood of press coverage, a court-martial and a continual retelling of the story, from survivors to naval historians to Patrick O'Brian's early novel "The Unknown Shore." So why read this book, as opposed to the Wikipedia entry?

Besides Grann's narrative gifts, there's the age-old reason — to find out how human beings behave under extremes (without suffering them yourself). And Grann puts his story in context, showing what a raw, naked grab for power the age of colonial expansion was. The Wager's crew was caught in the cogs of a brutal machine, and many had precious little of what we would call free will.

The other strength of the Wager's story is that it just gets more and more improbable. How did anyone survive? How did English authorities deal with a massive case of bad publicity? How did the traumatized survivors move on? The story of the Wager is, like many of its antecedents — from Homer's "Odyssey" to "Mutiny on the Bounty" — a testament to the depths of human depravity and the heights of human endurance, and you can't ask for better than that from a story. Maybe you get seasick at the thought of a seafaring novel; make an exception in this case. The Wager will keep you in its grip to its head-scratching, improbable end.

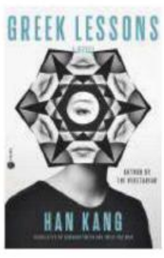
Gwinn, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who lives in Seattle, writes about books and authors.

AT A LOSS FOR WORDS IN VIVID DETAIL

BY MICHELE FILGATE

HOW STRANGE it is to be human. Plenty of authors have written about this peculiarity (some better than others), but Han Kang turns the well-worn idea of the mind-body disconnect into something fresh and substantial. The scarred strangers in "Greek Lessons," Kang's fourth novel to be translated into English from Korean, move from isolation to connection with their bodies and with one another.

The inherent difficulty of a dead language draws a teacher and student — both unnamed — to the same classroom in Seoul, although for different reasons. The teacher, nearing 40, grew up in Korea and Germany, split between two languages and cultures, but finds himself riveted by ancient Greek: "Its complicated grammatical system — and the fact that it was a long-dead language — meant Greek felt to me like a safe, quiet room." He finds comfort in it even as his life grows more challenging; his eyesight has been slowly fading for decades.



Random House

One of his students, a poet and mother and grieving daughter, is losing her power of speech. She signed up for his course "because she wants to reclaim language of her own volition," having grown mute after her mother died and she lost custody of her 8-year-old son — but as she herself reflects, the cause "*couldn't be that simple*." The teacher's perspective is narrated from the first person, while the student's is third-person. To speak from her own point of view seems impossible, because to do so would take up space, something she's always made a point of avoiding. "She had no wish to disseminate her self."

This isn't the first time she has been at a loss for words; 20 years earlier, at 16, "the language that had pricked and confined her like clothing made from a thousand needles abruptly disappeared."

The discomforts of inhabiting a body can be as challenging to translate as ancient Greek, but Kang is fluent in the intricacies of self-estrangement. Her growing English-language audience will find the themes of "Greek Lessons" — disembodiment and grief — familiar from her earlier novels, including "Human Acts" and her breakthrough, "The Vegetarian," which won a Booker International Prize (with a translation that caused some controversy).

In this novel, the disappearance of the student's voice muddles her perception of her own body. "Sometimes she thinks of herself as more like some form of substance, a moving solid or liquid, than like a person," Kang writes in a passage that calls to mind "The Vegetarian." "When she eats hot rice, she feels that she herself becomes that rice, and when she washes her face with cold water there is no distinction between her and that water. At the same time she knows that she is neither rice nor water, but some harsh, solid substance that will never commingle with any being, living or otherwise."

Her alienated perspective can be relentless at times, like a recurring nightmare in which you keep walking down the same narrow hallways, retracing your steps and making no progress. The student built her life around language only to have what gave her meaning taken away, along with the people who mattered to her most. "Words and sentences track her like ghosts, at a remove from her body, but near enough to be within ear- and eyeshot."

The teacher empathizes, having fallen in love as a teenager with a deaf girl. But there's an impermeability to this woman's demeanor that's different. "I'd never seen such silence in someone who was alive," he reflects.

In an interview with the New Yorker, Kang shared the first moment of inspiration for "Greek Lessons": A publisher told her that in ancient Greek "a single word can contain multilayered meanings, citing the middle voice, a grammatical structure that doesn't exist in Korean, which instantly attracted me."

The possibility of winnowing the bulkiness of language down to a single word, and all that word can signify, is relevant for the protagonists — both the teacher, replaying memories of people from his past, and the student, stuck on the threshold between thought and expression.

"Each time she tried to begin a sentence, she could feel her aged heart," Kang writes. "Her patched and repatched, dried-up, expressionless heart. The more keenly she felt it, the more fiercely she clasped the words. Until all at once, her grip slackened. The dulled fragments dropped to her feet. The saw-toothed cogs stopped turning."

"Greek Lessons" is concerned with how people can communicate when options are taken away from them, and how vulnerability can open the door. The most moving part of the book revolves around a moment of crisis for the teacher, when he must depend on the student. She traces words on his palm with her fingertip, finding her way back to her voice through physical touch.

Kang's latest isn't a page-turner, and reading it can feel like being suspended in time, or sitting through a very long class, despite the book's slimness. But that's the effect of writing into discomfort. It's important for the reader to feel it in their own body, a reminder that language is connected to the corporeal. Halfway through the book, she writes that the loss of words makes the world "fragmented, each piece distinct and separate — like the colored paper inside the kaleidoscope, shifting silently, repeatedly and in concert to form new patterns." A distorted or disrupted perspective is the only path to clarity for her characters. In "Greek Lessons" Kang reaches beyond the usual senses to translate the unspeakable.

Filgate is a writer and the editor of the anthology "What My Mother and I Don't Talk About."

HAN KANG explores grief and disembodiment in her newly translated novel.

Paik Dahuim

TV THIS WEEK

By Matt Cooper

SUNDAY

"Sanditon" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): This period drama based on an unfinished Jane Austen novel presents its series finale.

"Fix My Frankenhouse" (HGTV, 9 p.m.): These homes are in need of major reconstructive surgery in this new series.

"Amityville: An Origin Story" (MGM+, 10 p.m.): This new docuseries revisits the shocking 1974 murders that inspired the horror franchise.

MONDAY

"Perry Mason" (HBO, 9 p.m.): This drama starring Matthew Rhys as the dogged defense attorney wraps its second season.

"Independent Lens" (KOCE, 10 p.m.): The poignant 2022 documentary "Free Chol Soo Lee" tells the story of a Korean immigrant wrongfully convicted for a 1973 murder in San Francisco.

TUESDAY

"The Light We Carry: Michelle Obama & Oprah Winfrey" (Netflix): The former first lady and the onetime Queen of Daytime TV have a tête-à-tête in this new special.

"My Grandparents' War" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): Toby Jones learns about his forebears' experiences during World War II.

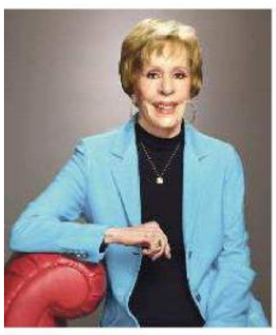
WEDNESDAY

"Carol Burnett: 90 Years of Laughter + Love" (NBC, 8 p.m.): The stars come out to salute a comedy legend in this new special.

"Nature" (KOCE, 8 p.m.): "Treasure of the Caribbean" explores a massive coral reef off the coast of Central America.

"Nova" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): Efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change are examined in "Chasing Zero Carbon."

"Iconic America: Our Symbols and Stories With David Rubenstein" (KOCE, 10 p.m.): Boston's Fenway Park is first up in this new series.



Chris Haston NBC

CAROL BURNETT is saluted in a new special airing on NBC.

THURSDAY

"Love & Death" (HBO Max): Infidelity leads to murder in a small Texas town in this new drama. Jesse Plemons and Elizabeth Olsen star.

"The Last Last Late Late Show With James Corden Carpool Karaoke Special" and "The Late Late Show" (CBS, 10 p.m. and 12:35 a.m.): Your host takes the wheel one last time before bidding his talk show adieu.

FRIDAY

"Citadel" (Prime Video): All is fair in love and espionage in this new spy drama starring "Bodyguard's" Richard Madden and "Quantico's" Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

"Peter Pan & Wendy" (Disney+): J. M. Barrie's fantastical tale is retold yet again in this live-action 2023 adventure.

"International Jazz Day From the United Nations" (KOCE, 10 p.m.): Herbie Hancock and Lizz Wright are featured in the annual special.

"Charles: In His Own Words" (Nat Geo, 10 p.m.): Charles of House Windsor, first of his name, is profiled in this special.

SATURDAY

"Moonage Daydream" (HBO, 8 p.m.): Rock icon David Bowie is remembered in this ravishing 2022 documentary.

"Hearts in the Game" (Hallmark, 8 p.m.): A publicist gets to first base with a major league pitcher in this new TV movie. With Erin Cahill.

"Road Trip Hostage" (Lifetime, 8 p.m.): A woman is waylaid en route to her sister's wedding in this new thriller.

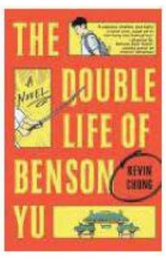
Andrew Querner

"THE WAY the book developed came to me as a surprise," says Kevin Chong.

A mind-bender with a double life

KEVIN CHONG TALKS COMIC BOOKS AND CONFRONTING THE PAST FOR HIS NEW NOVEL

BY LORRAINE BERRY



Simon & Schuster

THE EPONYMOUS main character in Kevin Chong's "The Double Life of Benson Yu" is a successful comic book creator who is asked to write a memoir. Benson's childhood was spent in an unspecified Chinatown in the 1980s, living with his grandmother after his mother died. All he knows of his father is that he's some kind of "bad man." What begins as realist fiction pivots with a gigantic metaphysical twist, asking big questions about what obligations a writer has to their characters. By blurring the lines between fact and fiction, creator and creation, Chong probes some of the tenderest spots in the process of writing fiction. ¶ Benson produces a series called "Iggy Samurai," in which animal characters act out a hero's journey. Iggy is guided by Coyote Sensei. The novel opens with an ominous letter written to Benson by "C," his real-life mentor. While the fictional sensei is benevolent, Constantine — C — was (and is) clearly not. ¶ C's reemergence forces Benson to rethink his art, which has given him a way to erase the terrible parts of his childhood and transmute them into an idealized adventure. Has he betrayed his history by concealing C's abuse? In Chong's riveting novel, the writer's attempt to control the past falls apart, and he must make himself accountable to the child he once was. ¶ Chong, the author of three previous novels and three works of nonfiction, spoke with The Times via video chat last month about fictional forms of truth, Vancouver's historic Chinatown and how parenthood has changed him as a writer.

What inspired you to write about Chinatown in the '80s?

Let me take you back to my thinking. I started writing the book in March 2020, right in the middle of the lockdown, and one of my inspirations was the Oregon author Willy Vlautin and the book "Lean On Pete." It's a great book and movie about a boy who lives at the track.

I've written books about horse racing, but [Vlautin's book] intrigued me because I liked the idea of writing about a boy on his own. Benny [the boy who becomes Samurai] is 12, because it's a vulnerable age — not-quite child and not-quite teenager. The summer I was 12 I was in Chinatown at my grandma's in a one-room studio apartment in a housing project. And so spatially, that's the setting I drew from.

It's never mentioned which Chinatown it is. Was that deliberate?

I was being vague. My last book was set in Vancouver, and I wanted to not talk about the location. I wanted to just talk about it as a Chinatown and have the audience fill in the blanks. But I think if you were to map out the book, you'd use a map of Vancouver's Chinatown.

What is different from the 1980s is gentrification and how Chinatowns are hollowed out these days, because a lot of members of Chinese communities live in the suburbs. In a lot of those urban cores, especially in Vancouver, that area is being reclaimed, used for condo developments and things that aren't related to Chinese people. A lot of these sorts of places are a little bit under siege.

Benson's writer's block kicks in when he's asked to write a memoir. How do you think switching to prose unmoors him?

I was thinking of somebody who was writing comic books as a kind of an escape, and now he wants to write prose as a way of really trying to confront these issues. He thinks prose narrative is more "adult." "Iggy Samurai" — I thought of it being like "Teenage Mutant Ninja Samurais" or "Samurai Rabbit." I had to do a deep dive back into that era of comics.

If you're confronted by somebody who has taken something from you, done something terrible, maybe you're not in a position to write about it in a way that's level-headed, that allows for ambiguity. That's something Benson is trying to figure out over the course of the story.

The problem is it's something huge that inspires the writing. Benson's approach creates a sort of false binary. Either he doesn't write about it or he idealizes it.

So Benson's problem in telling the story becomes your problem in writing the novel: How to confront the past.

In retrospect, the way the book developed came to me as a surprise, but it shouldn't have been. I like a lot of books in which reality folds into itself as a commentary on storytelling. For example, I really liked [Susan Choi's] "Trust Exercise," [Charles Yu's] "Interior Chinatown" and [Iain Reid's] "I'm Thinking of Ending Things" a lot. Those are all self-referential and about writing.

I was thinking about people I know who have spoken very highly of people who were tormenting them. And when you point out that it sounds like abuse, they get very angry and so much of their sense of self-worth is tied into the relationship with this person.

And as a writer, I thought about whether there are ethics to trying to humanize a monster. If you turn them into a character and you try to understand them, are you in some ways justifying their actions? That's what Benson is grappling with as he writes this story.

Benson is also a father, and you've written essays about being a stepfather and a new dad. Has fatherhood changed your writing?

I would think so, as much as being married. I feel like it's changed me more than anything else, insofar as marriage makes you come to terms with your limitations as a person. Because you have to justify yourself with someone else.

I was a new father at almost 40. It definitely gave me a perspective. I have to live a life where I don't embarrass my children. You don't want to leave them ashamed of who you are and the legacy you have given them. You have to lead by example.

I feel like every time I write a book, I start the book because something has changed in my life. I don't write a new book a year, sadly, because I'd like to. I move slowly because I feel I have to have a new outlook for a new book to be justified. It makes sense to be a parent and think about being a parent writing the book.

Berry writes for a number of publications.

BESTSELLERS

Fiction

		weeks on list
1.	**Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus (Doubleday: $29) A chemist goes on to be a single parent.	51
2.	**Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow** by Gabrielle Zevin (Knopf: $28) BFFs collaborate on a video game.	41
3.	**Romantic Comedy** by Curtis Sittenfeld (Random House: $28) A TV comedy writer falls for a pop star.	2
4.	**I Have Some Questions for You** by Rebecca Makkai (Viking: $28) A professor gets drawn into a mystery.	8
5.	**Hello Beautiful** by Ann Napolitano (Dial: $28) A college student from a home broken by tragedy falls in love.	5
6.	**Pineapple Street** by Jenny Jackson (Pamela Dorman: $28) Old-money wealth gets a once-over.	6
7.	**Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper: $33) A boy is born into poverty.	26
8.	**Before the Coffee Gets Cold** by Toshikazu Kawaguchi (Hanover Square: $20) A cafe facilitates time travel.	20
9.	**The White Lady** by Jacqueline Winspear (Harper: $30) A former spy gets drawn into intrigue.	1
10.	**Small Things Like These** by Claire Keegan (Grove: $20) In 1985, a coal merchant makes a discovery.	1

Nonfiction

		weeks on list
1.	**Poverty, by America** by Matthew Desmond (Crown: $28) A fresh look at poverty.	4
2.	**Atomic Habits** by James Clear (Avery: $27) A guide to building good habits.	54
3.	**Sweet Enough** by Alison Roman (Clarkson Potter: $35) Simple desserts.	3
4.	**I'm Glad My Mom Died** by Jennette McCurdy (Simon & Schuster: $28) A memoir from the TV star.	35
5.	**I Swear** by Katie Porter (Crown: $28) A political memoir.	1
6.	**The Creative Act** by Rick Rubin (Penguin: $32) How to be a creative person.	13
7.	**On the Origin of Time** by Thomas Hertog (Bantam: $29) Stephen Hawking's final theory.	1
8.	**Saving Time** by Jenny Odell (Random House: $29) New ways to experience time.	5
9.	**You Could Make This Place Beautiful** by Maggie Smith (Atria/One: $28) A memoir from the poet.	1
10.	**The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse** by Charlie Mackesy (HarperOne: $23) A modern fable.	97

Paperback bestsellers lists and more at latimes.com/bestsellers.

Southern California bestsellers from CALIBA

FEEDBACK

All worthy reads, ultimately

Regarding "The Ultimate L.A. Bookshelf" [April 16]: List-making relies on the impossible premise that — like the L.A. River flood channel — a list can contain the uncontainable. I suspect that every L.A. reader has built a book collection that defines and illuminates fact and dream, and the textures of death and life in the City of Angels.

An L.A. lifer, my essentials include Patt Morrison's and Mark Lamonica's "Río L.A.: Tales From the Los Angeles River"; "Hitler in Los Angeles" by Steven J. Ross; the L.A. Times' "California Cookbook"; Joseph Wambaugh's "The Black Marble"; "And Still We Rise" by Miles Corwin; Steve Hodel's "Black Dahlia Avenger"; and Thomas Perry's (yes, we're related) "Metzger's Dog." I'd love to see other readers' lists.

Jo Perry
Studio City

::

I was delighted to see "Ramona" by Helen Hunt Jackson prominently featured.

"Ramona" is performed every year between April and May at the Ramona Bowl Amphitheatre in Hemet. This year is the 100th anniversary.

Kathryn Leibovich
Hemet

::

I read through the "Ultimate Bookshelf" articles, plus the 26 best books about L.A., and — outside of a mention in one of the introductory paragraphs — no mention of Michael Connelly's "Bosch" series or "Lincoln Lawyer" series.

Has he sold too many books? Does turning them into TV series mean they don't make the list?

William Charlton
Los Angeles

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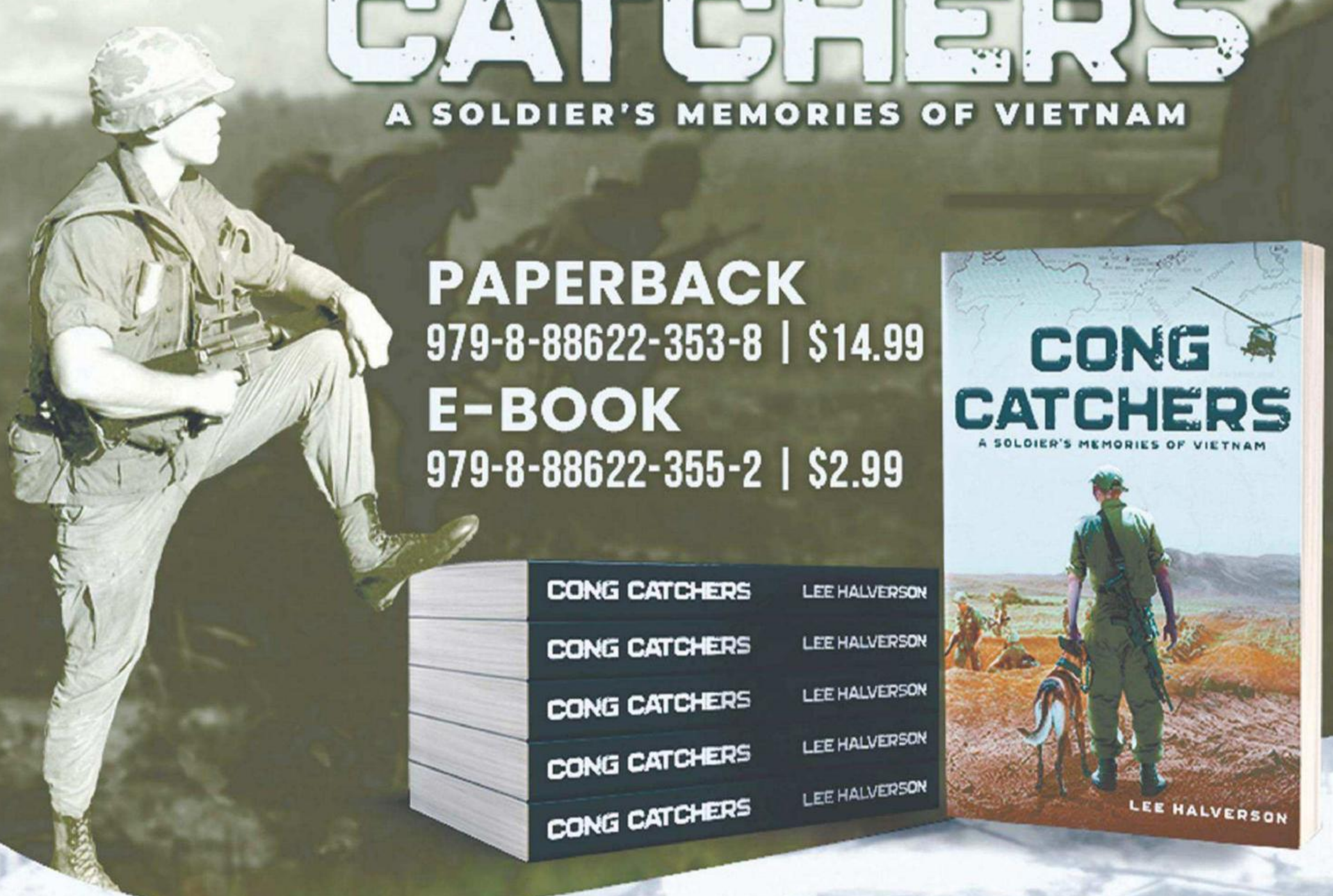
LA Times

LEE HALVERSON

CONG CATCHERS

A SOLDIER'S MEMORIES OF VIETNAM



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Wars can make or break a person, and growing up with deeply ingrained Christian values, Lee Halverson rose up to the challenge that was the Vietnam War. As he stated in the foreword of his book *Cong Catchers*, "Most books about Viet Nam deal with troop strength, weaponry, battles, body counts and so on. Not this one."

In this book, Halverson focused on the good things that happened during his Army tour in Vietnam—from organizing football games, drinking sodas, and helping in repairing orphanages. With *Cong Catchers*, readers get a glimpse of another view of the Vietnam War—one that is filled with hope and optimism.

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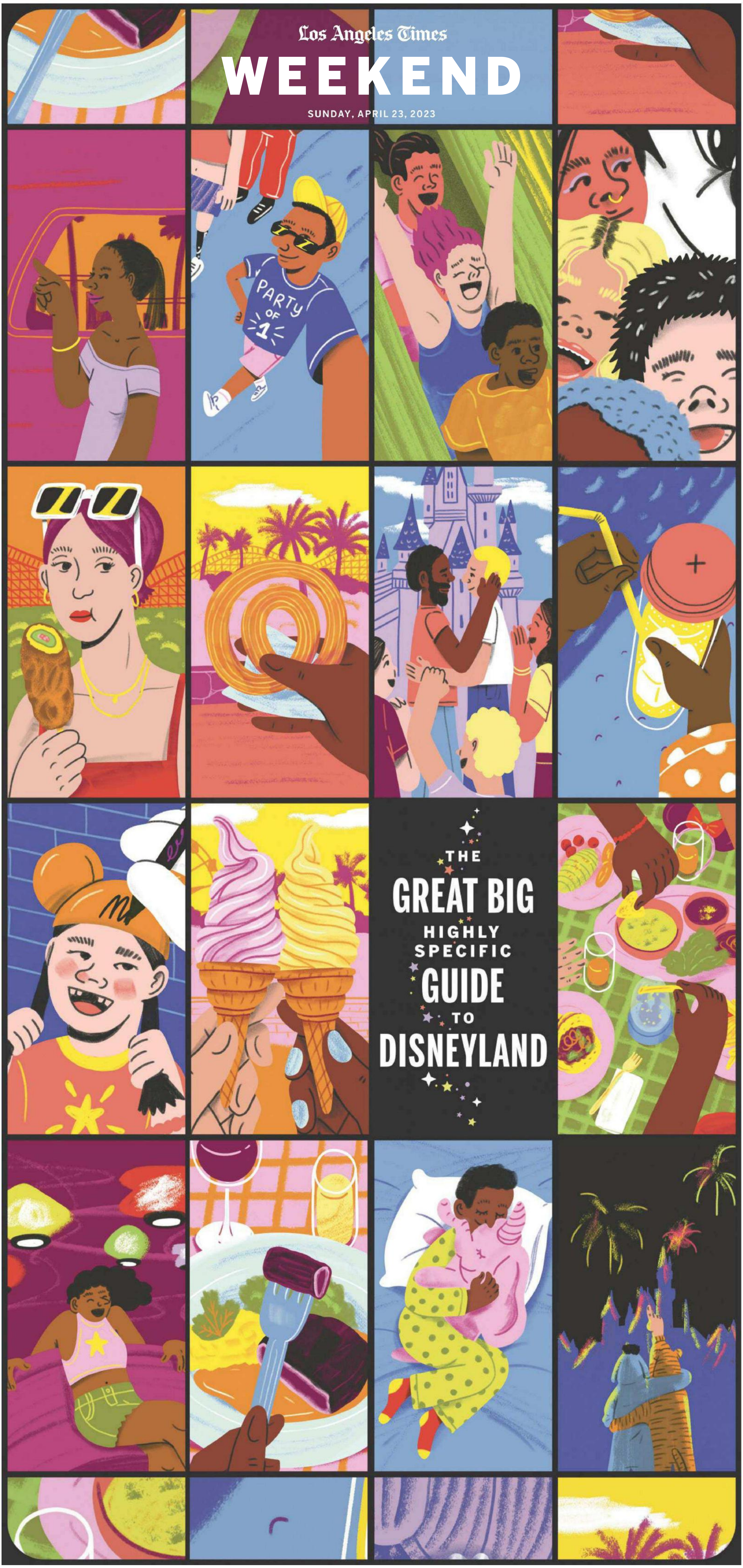
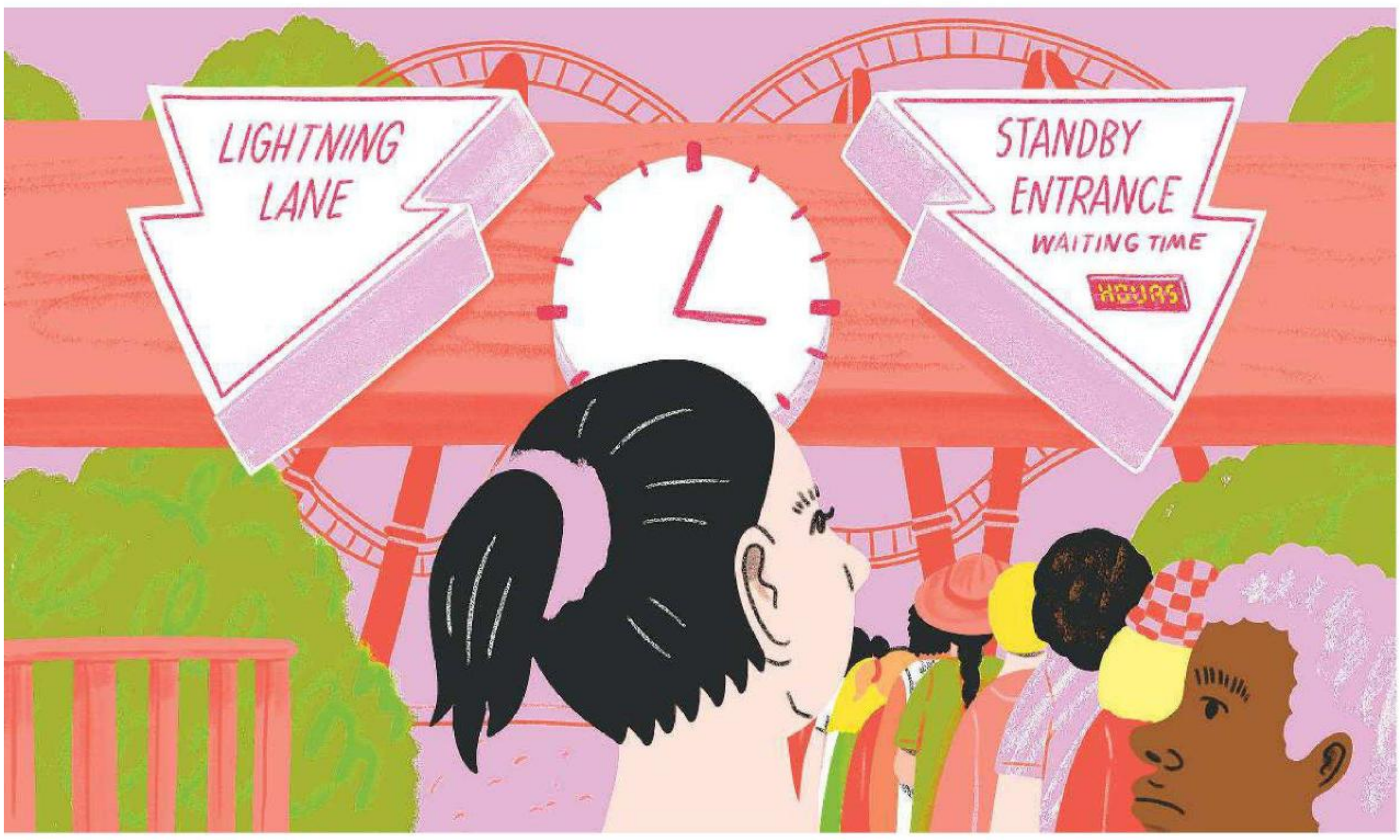


THE GREAT BIG HIGHLY SPECIFIC GUIDE TO DISNEYLAND

VIKTORIA CICHOŃ For The Times



VIKTORIA CICHOŃ For The Times

NOW ON PARADE? THE WEALTH GAP

SPEND MORE FOR A BETTER DAY? THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY. **BY TODD MARTENS**

DISNEYLAND is your land.” ¶ Those were Walt Disney's words to the crowd in his speech on the park's opening day in 1955. But that didn't mean he was giving it away — only that the park's patriarch had ideals for what Disneyland could be. Those ideals have long clashed with Disneyland's interests as a business enterprise. ¶ Disneyland is a place I visit regularly, typically at least twice per month. Normally it's a reset, where I return after a particularly stressful day or week. But there have been times on recent trips where a new feeling has crept into my Disneyland experience — the unsettling sense that I could be having more fun if I spent more money.

Prior to Disneyland's extended, pandemic-forced closure, once you passed the gates, everyone had the opportunity to have more or less the same magical day in Disneyland. But today, that admission fee comes with an asterisk: Arguably, to enjoy your day at the Disneyland Resort you will need to purchase a host of add-ons.

This can get confusing. Tucked in the Disneyland app is the line-skipping feature Genie+, which typically starts at $25 but on crowded days will hit $30. Genie+ provides access to Lightning Lanes — what was called FastPass and was free in the pre-pandemic days — but some Lightning Lanes now charge an extra fee in addition. At Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance, bypassing the standby line will cost you an extra $20 on most days. To pay an added $50 to get on the rides you want after paying as much as $244 just to walk through the turnstile is exhausting.

Disneyland has never been without special privileges for those who can afford them, such as high-priced VIP tours or the fine-dining 21 Royal experience, where up to 12 guests can split a bill of around $15,000. And then there is the private restaurant and lounge that is Club 33, which costs tens of thousands to join and is tucked in a corner of New Orleans Square. But those have mostly been out-of-the-way accoutrements for the in-the-know, whereas the new microtransactions make a divide part of the everyday Disneyland experience.

Today, this sense of haves versus have-nots is starting to create a caste system that can make everyone feel bad. One doesn't feel so special when standing still in line just to watch those who shelled out more cash stroll by. And those who do spring for Genie+ can feel an unwelcome sense of privilege — and perhaps get some annoyed stares — as they glide past the masses.

There are other headaches. If one wants some added convenience, as well as the ability to play a scavenger-hunt-like game in Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, there's Magic Band+ to consider, which, while far from a required add-on, can cost around another $35 to $65 per person. And this is all after paying for parking, which is another $30 — or $50 if you opt for “preferred parking” (tip: Don't, as it provides little benefit).

Entering Disneyland has become akin to booting up a free-to-play mobile game — you can only get by playing for so long before being reminded that you're all out of coins. And all those microtransactions can kill the magic. The new system views Disneyland not as a cultural institution but as an extension of, say, Disney+, the streaming service with its own tiers (ads or no ads) that create different levels of access. But what works on our television sets doesn't translate so well to a physical space.

A LONG-LOST FANTASY

Walt Disney wanted the park to represent a better, more triumphant version of reality, a place where we don't just escape into fantasy but also see better versions of ourselves and the world we live in. But divorcing oneself from the frustrations of life beyond the Disneyland berm becomes a more difficult task when one's experience is dictated so heavily by one's ability — or inability — to spend more than the cost of admission.

Even in the park's early days, fans accused Uncle Walt of making it too expensive for the common American.

“That's an old-hat thing,” Disney told journalist Pete Martin of the Saturday Evening Post in 1956 when he asked about Disneyland prices, and as confirmed by the Walt Disney Family Museum, which has a transcript of the interview. At the time, the cost of adult admission to Disneyland would run around $3, or close to $34 today.

Disney dismissed the charge that Disneyland was too costly, noting that, in addition to security and park upkeep, he had a list of bills other entertainment enterprises didn't: new attractions for one, and new monkeys on the Jungle Cruise for another (“My monkeys have gone to pot,” Disney said). And, Disney reasoned, Disneyland could be a full 13 hours of entertainment.

“How can they compare Disneyland prices with anything else because there is nothing else like it,” Disney said.

Los Angeles Times Archive / UCLA

WALT DISNEY and granddaughter Tammy Miller, above, at Nature Wonderland on June 13, 1960. Below, Disneyland on its opening day, July 17, 1955.

OUT OF TOUCH OR JUST BUSINESS?

But one doesn't need to go back to the 1950s or even the 1970s and the era of ticket books to note how things have changed. The Disneyland experience post-pandemic is significantly different than it was in 2019, when there was still a free FastPass option.

It's a business perspective that views Disneyland as a transactional rather than a transformational experience. And it's debatable if all of this has resulted in a better experience or just one with more marketing opportunities.

Increasingly, every crevice of the park is seen as land for a synergistic tie-in. Take the makeover of a Disney California Adventure dining area into a nod to San Fransokyo from the “Big Hero 6” films and series: It's an unnecessary spend, remaking a relatively quiet slice of the park into another place for character meet-and-greets and merchandise kiosks.

Genie+, I believe, is increasingly a necessary purchase to have a successful Disneyland day. But it makes going to Disneyland feel pay-to-win. The dangerous slippery slope is the Individual Lightning Lane, and Disney, thankfully, has used it sparingly, saving it largely for new rides such as Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway and the ever-popular Rise of the Resistance and Radiator Springs Racers. Unfortunately, Genie+ wait times can themselves sometimes stretch upward of 25 minutes, which is only going to have a negative effect on standby wait times.

This hasn't even touched on other ways Disneyland can nickel-and-dime guests. Sites such as Disney Food Blog, for instance, do a fine job of tracking the relatively consistent price increases on food items, and these days a bottle of water can cost close to $4.50, which seems offensive in a region that's often sunny and warm. Do yourself a favor and bring a refillable water bottle.

But recent comments by reinstated CEO Bob Iger have raised hope among fans that changes could be coming. “I always believed that Disney was a brand that needs to be accessible,” he reportedly told a Morgan Stanley media conference in March. “And I think that in our zeal to grow profits, we may have been a little bit too aggressive about some of our pricing.”

Much of this microtransaction approach occurred during the brief regime of Bob Chapek, who prior to becoming CEO in 2020 had been leader of the parks division since 2015. And while his reign over the parks overlapped with Iger's earlier tenure, many of the projects launched in the Chapek era telegraph an overall approach to Disney parks that views them as little more than brand deposits. See, for instance, the remake of California Adventure's Paradise Pier to Pixar Pier, a theming-on-the-cheap approach that did little more than add a Pixar gloss to what had been elegantly designed as a nod to California history.

The most ambitious project launched in the Chapek era — the brilliant Galactic Starcruiser at Walt Disney World, commonly known as the “Star Wars” hotel — debuted in 2022 with a cost that is laughably out of touch with essentially all of America, as prices start at around $5,000 for two guests for two nights. All of this combined created the impression, rightly or wrongly, that Chapek viewed the Disney theme parks and their hotels as retail rather than life-altering experiences. Iger's recent comments imply that he recognizes how fans currently view the brand.

STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Disney deserves credit for making a number of consumer-friendly changes in recent weeks.

Shortly after Iger was reinstalled as CEO, the company announced that it would do away with some pandemic-era restrictions, with one goal being to allow ticket buyers to more easily move between parks. Those with Park-Hopper tickets now can swap locations starting at 11 a.m. Previously, it was 1 p.m., which would lock paying guests out of a portion of the resort until the early afternoon.

The company also said it would include, for now, PhotoPass downloads in all Genie+ purchases. More important, the company announced that it would add close to two months' worth of days when visitors could pay the lowest price for a single park visit: $104. Thus far, that has resulted in the ability to visit Disneyland at its most approachable price on multiple midweek days in May and June, a change from prior years.

There's more that can be done. While Genie+ isn't going anywhere, its price can fluctuate based on crowd level. It'd be nice to end the guessing game and keep Genie+ fixed at a more inviting $20, allowing more guests to partake in line-skipping benefits. Disneyland should also take after Walt Disney World and make hotel parking free for those guests who are spending the night. Currently, it's an added $35 per day on rooms at its three hotels that can only rarely be had for less than $400 per night.

None of this, of course, is an exact science. As the park's patriarch said, comparing Disneyland prices to other entertainment offerings is a challenge, as there's simply “nothing else like it.” And many, including me, are willing to pay for such an experience. But even the most die-hard of fans have a breaking point, and that too is an old-hat thing.

Associated Press

SCAN THIS QR CODE for more recommendations, lists and Disneyland Resort information.

FOR THE RECORD

Native plant nurseries: In the list in the April 16 Weekend section, the opening hours for Plant Material's stores are incorrect. All three locations are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

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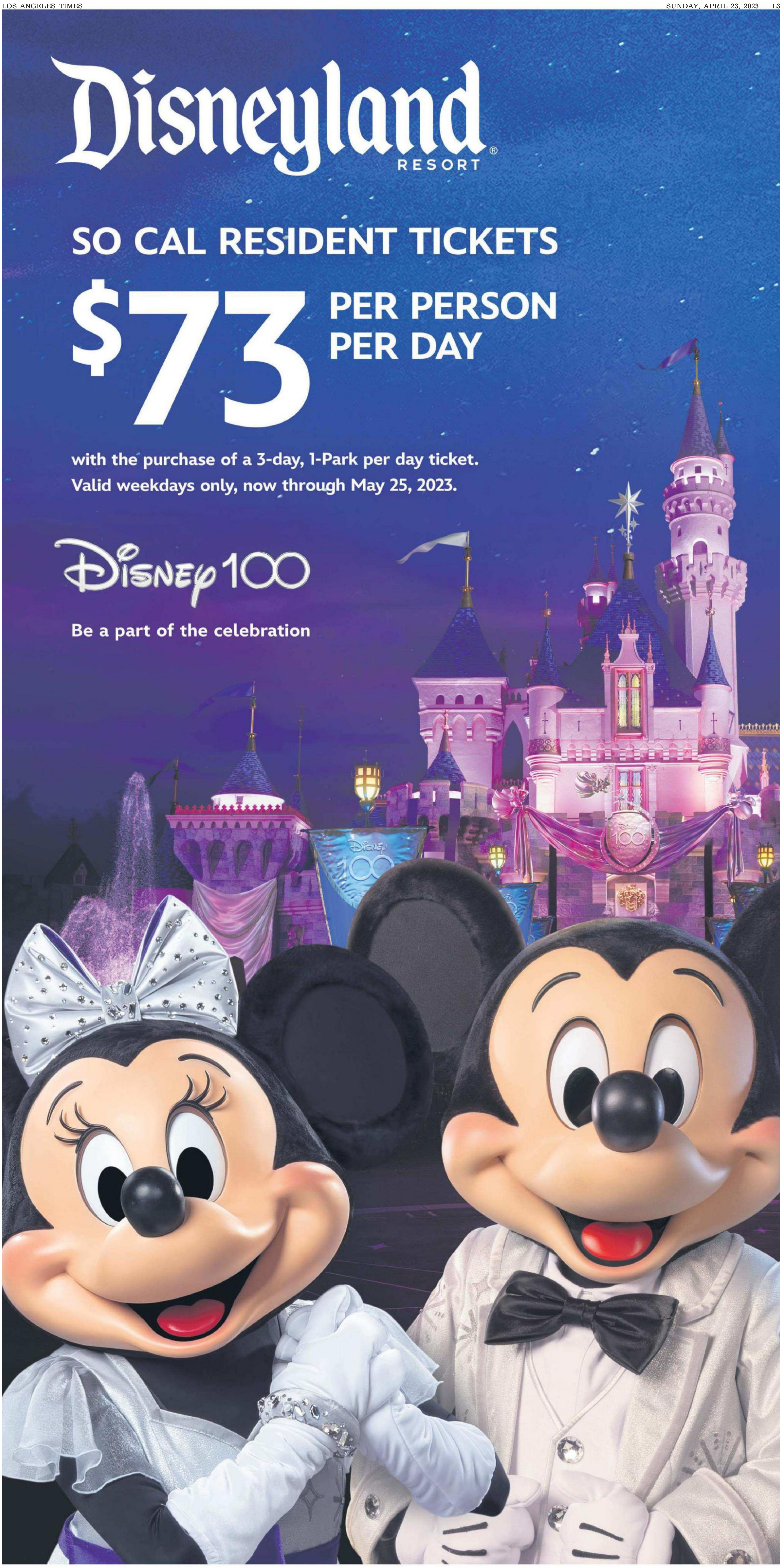

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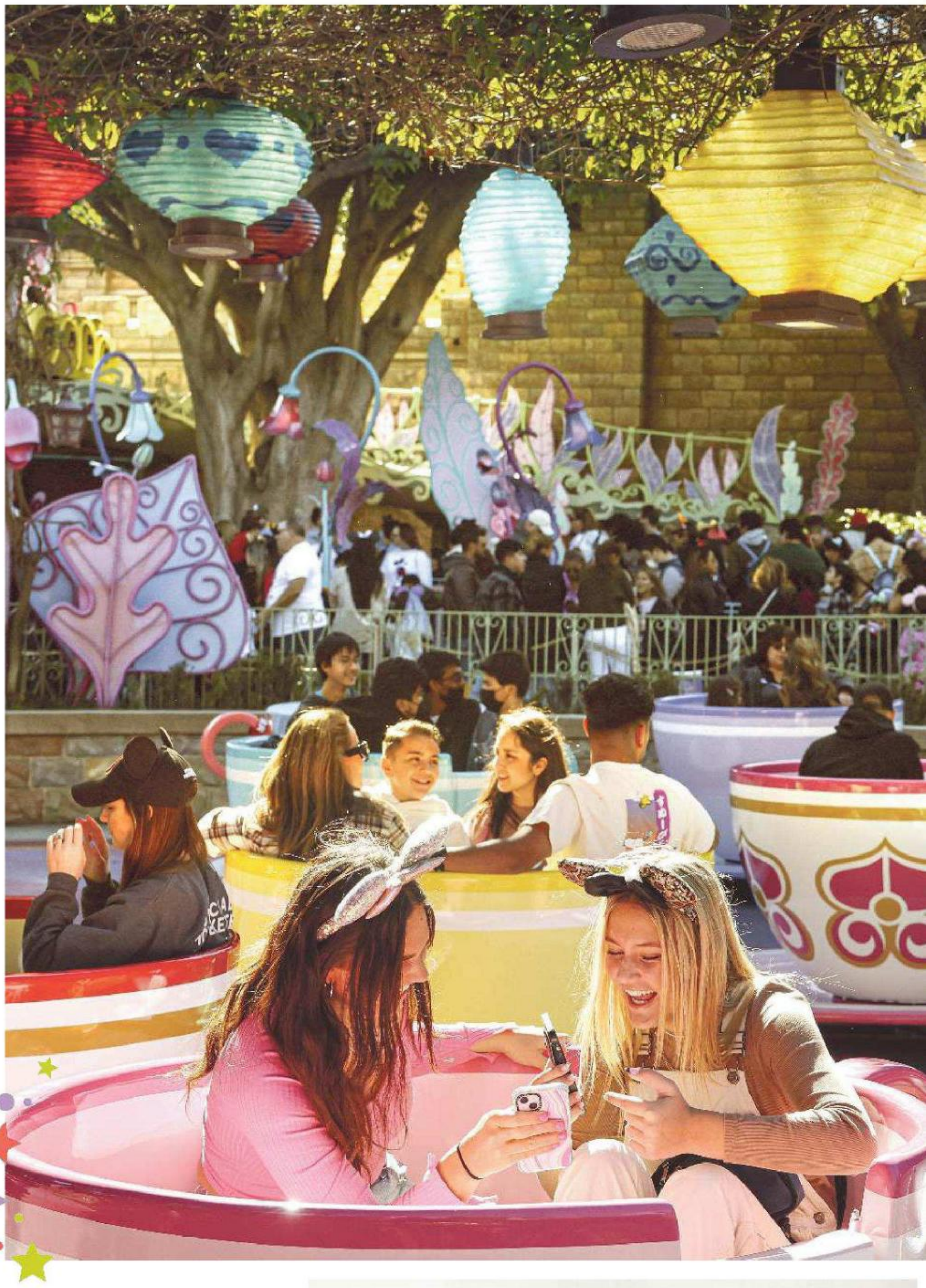
To enter a Park, both a Theme Park reservation and a valid ticket for the same Park on the same date are required. Theme Park reservations are limited, and subject to availability. Certain Parks, attractions, restaurants, experiences, services and offerings may be modified or unavailable, limited in capacity, and subject to limited availability or even closure. Park admission and offerings are not guaranteed. Visit disneyland.disney.go.com/experience-updates/ for important information about what you need to know before visiting the *Disneyland*® Resort.

TIPS, TRICKS AND FOOD SECRETS FROM DISNEY FANATICS

FREQUENT VISITORS SHARE THEIR IDEAS TO MAKE THE MOST OF PARKS

BY LISA BOONE, DANIELLE DORSEY, JEANETTE MARANTOS, ADAM TSCHORN AND MICHELLE WOO

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times



ATTENTION DISNEYLAND VETERANS! If you haven't visited for a while, here's a little heads-up: Everything you know is wrong. ¶ I've been visiting Disneyland since the Matterhorn was its coolest ride, so I've rolled with a lot of changes over the years. But when I went in January, after a four-year hiatus, I spent most of the day reeling between sticker shock and frustration. ¶ It wasn't just the staggering ticket prices that ruined my day, or the new caste system that allows people to cut the line if they pay an additional $25 to $50 for Lightning Lane passes, or the death by a thousand cuts while trying to make sense of the Disneyland app designed to create "your best Disney day" — especially when your phone battery dies after all the scrolling.

No, it's the death of spontaneity that's the real blow.

Once upon a time, before COVID-19, I would grit my teeth and plop down my credit card to buy three tickets for my sons and me. But there was always that little thrill as we gleefully plotted our strategy for the day. We'd use our Park Hopper tickets, cunning and strategies honed from years of experience to nab free Fast Passes (now costly Lightning Lane passes) and visit all of our favorite rides.

We were Disney warriors; we owned those parks, and we shared a camaraderie with our fellow travelers. Now, we just share a confusing app. If you aren't willing to download the app and figure out how to use it ahead of time, prepare yourself for a long day of endless lines and frustration.

"Disneyland is not a spontaneous trip anymore, and with the amount of money you spend on it today, it shouldn't be spontaneous," said Allison Mertzman, a super fan who specializes in Disneyland trips through her travel business, Adventures With Allison Wonderland.

"People need 30-plus hours to plan a Disney vacation these days," she said. "And they *can* do it on their own, but unless you're really well-versed in the parks and the app and all the changes Disney has made, going without a travel agent to guide you is really difficult."

To be fair, I returned to Disneyland in March with my adult kids and it was a much smoother visit. I had gotten tips from co-workers and friends and mastered the app, using it to order food and check out line times. We didn't spring for Lightning Lane passes on principle, which we slightly regretted after waiting 95 minutes for the truly terrific Rise of the Resistance ride. We passed the time answering trivia questions and savored the together time.

For the stalwart DIY-ers unfamiliar with the intricacies of Disneyland and California Adventure these days, we've pulled tips from park-goers like Mertzman to help you visit without having a meltdown. (Find more tips at latimes.com/disneylandresort.)

— *Jeanette Marantos*

Tips have been edited for length and clarity.

PREPARATION AND PLANNING

1 **The Disneyland app is your best friend**, but it can be a bit confusing to use, so take some time to figure it out before you go. There are some great YouTube instructional videos. Create an account and input your credit card before you go. — *Meghan Wood, visits Disneyland once a month, created a 30-page guide to help friends with kids plan visits*

2 Start planning your visit as early as you can, especially if you're doing the work yourself. **Reservations for sit-down dining open 60 days in advance** at 3 a.m. Pacific time, and the slots fill quickly. — *Allison Mertzman*

3 **Check out the crowds on the day of your visit before deciding to buy line-cutting passes**. If you decide Lightning Lane passes are worth the extra money, buy them that day through the Genie+ feature on the Disneyland app. — *Dana Johnston, former Disney World cast member, co-creator of the Gen D podcast and part-time Disney travel advisor*

4 If you're going with a large group, **have everyone provide their No. 1 "must" thing they'd like to do in advance** and then design your daily itinerary so that it includes everyone's goals. — *Melanee Berman, a nurse who goes to Disneyland every other month and creates custom itineraries for visitors @the_Disney_RN*

5 **Check the Anaheim Convention Center events calendar** before you go, as Disneyland can be extremely congested during large conventions. — *Gavin Doyle, author of "Disneyland Secrets: A Grand Tour of Disneyland's Hidden Details"*

6 **Buy a portable charging kit** before you go. It's a lightweight item to carry and ensures your phone doesn't go dead. You can also buy them at the park, but they're cheaper on Amazon. — *Allison Mertzman*

7 **Park at Disneyland parking lots if you're going to hang out at Downtown Disney** for longer than six hours. Downtown Disney is $66 for a full day of parking and Disneyland is $30. — *Stephanie Breijo, L.A. Times Food reporter who's been to Disneyland on the job and for fun*

EXPERIENCES AND SHOPPING

8 Instead of entering Disneyland through the main entrance, **you can enter via the monorail entrance next to the Star Wars Trading Post** in Downtown Disney. — *Mary Melton, annual pass holder for more than 30 years*

9 Disneyland has awesome nighttime spectaculars, but if you want to spend less time waiting around for a great spot for shows like "Fantasmic!" and "World of Color," **watch the second viewing**. These shows usually run twice each night, and the second showing is often after 10 p.m., when many other guests are ready to head out of the parks. — *David Vaughn, who shares his Disneyland tips via Instagram at @davidvaughn*

10 **If you go into the stores and want their cool fixtures and lights**, you can ask a cast member at the register where they got them. They have a binder with information on the companies they source their decor from. So you can reach out to those companies directly and decorate your home to look like Disneyland! — *James Dusenberry, former annual pass holder*

11 At 9 a.m., go see what is on the Animation Academy schedule at California Adventure and **plan your day around drawing your favorite character.** It's a low-key amazing experience. It's also the best place for parents to rest while their kids run around — especially with the AC during the summer months. — *Genevieve Becker, annual pass holder*

12 If you want to buy merch and the line is really long, you can just **use mobile checkout**. — *Katie Goto, creator of @2.adventure.and.beyond on Instagram, TikTok, YouTube*

RIDES

13 **Do all of Fantasyland after the fireworks.** The kids have gone and you can walk onto most of the rides. You can usually do all rides before the park closes and avoid the stroller parking mess there during the day. — *Alexys DeMaria, Imagine Magic Key holder, visits three to four times a month*

14 **When a ride goes down for whatever reason, monitor its Lightning Lane status** (if it offers one) on the app. The time that shows up next is when they anticipate the ride reopening. You can plan a snack, bathroom break or shop until it's time to linger near standby again. — *Anne Marie Panoringan, annual pass holder*

15 **Rider Switch is great for parents** who like the thrill rides but have small kids or kids who don't like the thrill rides. One parent goes on the ride, comes out, and then the parents "switch." The second parent gets on the ride without waiting in line again. — *Genevieve Becker*

KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

SNOW WHITE'S Enchanted Wish, top, the Mad Tea Party's spinning tea cups and the monorail are among the classic rides at Disneyland. Visitors to the theme park can watch Mickey Mouse lead a parade or shop for Star Wars merchandise (and use mobile checkout if the line is too long at the register).

FOOD AND DRINK

16 When ordering the famous corn dog at Disneyland, skip the chips that come on the side and **order a la carte to save a few dollars**. This also works at other eateries. — *Joshua Wong, annual pass holder from 2009-18*

17 **Order your food via mobile app.** You can schedule the time you want to pick up your food, even for hours later in the day. — *Nancy Broderick, five-year annual pass holder, twice-a-month visitor*

18 If you're not hungry when your scheduled meal time approaches, **you can always push meal times later, but it's not easy to make them sooner.** — *Dana Johnston*

19 At night, head to Salt & Straw in Downtown Disney. Buy a pint of ice cream in the freezer section. Take your pint and **sit on a blanket between Disney California Adventure and Disneyland and get the full fireworks show.** You don't even have to pay for a ticket. — *Katie Goto*

20 **The beignets at Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen's beignets are better than those at Royal Street Veranda** and made fresh to order. Stop by

DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

their Express Kitchen at Downtown Disney. — *Stephanie Breijo*

21 **Get your Dole Whip with a shot of rum at Trader Sam's Enchanted Tiki Bar** and Tangaroa Terrace at the Disneyland Hotel, which are open to the public.
— *Stephanie Breijo*

22 **The best drinks are at the Lamplight Lounge at California Adventure.** There's a secret menu with cocktails like the Sea Witch (made with raspberry vodka and peach schnapps). — *Dunya Dost, a Disneyland enthusiast who visits weekly*

23 When we have a larger-than-usual crew (more than seven), I head to California Adventure and buy one turkey leg at any stand ($12.99), one sliced loaf of sourdough from Pacific Wharf Cafe ($6.49) and an arugula side salad ($5.29) from Pym Test Kitchen. Stop by any condiment area and grab packets of salt, pepper, mustard and mayo. Pick a table, get to work with two forks pulling all the meat off the turkey leg, spread mustard on half the slices and mayo on the other half, add the arugula and the turkey, a dash of pepper and salt. **You will get 10 sandwiches — enough to feed all your Mouseketeers — and spend less than $25**.
— *Carmelita Ramírez-Sánchez, 22-year annual pass holder and twice-a-month visitor*

24 **Make a reservation at Plaza Inn or Jolly Holiday** to enjoy a convenient seat and view for the parade rather than vying for sidewalk space and getting jostled by other guests.
— *Stephanie Breijo*

25 The best way to **end your night at Disneyland is with the grilled cheese and tomato soup at the Jolly Holiday.** It's so good, especially after a long day of walking around the park. There's also a grilled cheese birria sandwich that's available seasonally and comes with a side of consommé. — *Dunya Dost*

CHARACTERS

26 If you want a good experience with a "fuzzy" Disney character covered by a costume, remember that the people *inside* those costumes aren't permitted to talk and have no peripheral vision. So **if you're standing behind Pluto or off to the side of Winnie the Pooh, they can't see you** or answer if you shout at them. The best way to have a good interaction is to plant yourself directly in front of the character and start a conversation that's pertinent to the character, such as, "Hey Winnie, have you lost your honey again?" They can't answer, but they will happily respond with gestures and hugs.
— *Dana Johnston*

27 Face characters like Alice in Wonderland, Tinker Bell and the Mad Hatter can talk, but they always have to stay in character when they're interacting with park visitors. So **when you talk to them, talk to the character, not the person wearing the costume**. Questions like "How can you stand that hot costume?" or "Where do you really live?" will be politely ignored or deflected. Alice is a 12-year-old girl from Oxford, so the answer to "Where do you live?" will always be "Oxford." For the best interaction, ask questions pertinent to the character and play along. You'll both have more fun. — *Piper Gillin, former Disneyland cast member for nearly 12 years, who most frequently portrayed Alice in Wonderland or Tinker Bell*

Unexpected items to pack in the ultimate Disneyland bag to make the day better

BE PREPARED FOR KIDS TO GET SEPARATED, FEET TO GET WET AND EVERYONE TO GET HOT AND TIRED. HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO HELP

BY MICHELLE WOO

YOU KNOW you'll return home from Disneyland with memories to last a lifetime, but what the heck should you bring there?

I surveyed my Disneyland-obsessed friends, chatted with Disneyland content creator Katie Goto (*@2.adventure.and.beyond*) and visited the parks many times myself to compile this pro-level packing list, a collection of items that would make Mary Poppins herself wonder, "Now why didn't I think of that?"

Just don't forget the sunscreen.

A clear backpack: Let's start with the bag itself. If you don't mind your items exposed, toting a clear plastic backpack makes passing through security a breeze.

Disney character onesie: When it starts to get chilly as you watch the fireworks or parades, slip an adult-sized onesie over your day clothes and it's like having a wearable blanket. It doesn't *have* to be Disney character-themed, but it's just more fun to wave to a dancing Daisy Duck while dressed as Donald.

Glow necklaces: Pass them out to your kids at night so you can better spot them in the dark.

Collapsible water bottle: To lighten up your bag, it's best to leave your beloved Stanley tumbler at home and instead bring a highly packable Platypus water bottle that you can refill, or roll up when it's not in use.

Stamped letters and postcards: It could be fun to have kids write "Wish you were here!" letters to Grandma and send them straight from the parks. (FYI, Disneyland doesn't postmark the mail — instead, it's taken to an Anaheim post office.)

Mickey ears and a metallic permanent marker: Instead of asking characters to sign an autograph book, hand them a metallic permanent marker and have them sign your Mickey ears. It'll be a fun thing to display later on.

A pair of flip-flops: These come in especially handy on water rides.

A lightweight stroller, even if you don't have kids with you: Some Disneyland regulars like to bring a stroller that serves as a "movable locker" for the group. Keep a portable power strip in it so that everyone can plug in their devices whenever they need to.

A temporary tattoo with your phone number on it: Disneyland is a crowded place — know that you can buy custom child-safety tattoos on Etsy that say, "If lost, please call [your phone number]." Or you can write out your digits on your kids' skin with Sharpie (which I've read that some parents do), but you risk it washing off on Grizzly River Run.

Empty containers or reusable snack bags: When you're full but you can't bring yourself to throw away half of that $19 burger, it's nice to have something to store it in. Bring your own to-go containers so you can munch on your leftovers later. One good option is a PackIt freezable snack box.

Souvenirs for your kids that you purchased ahead of time: Avoid long lines and hefty price tags at the gift shops by doing some pre-Disney-day shopping.

A pack of cooling bandannas and a neck fan: On sweltering days, tie a cooling bandanna around your forehead and place a neck fan around your neck for some sweet, sweet relief.

Extra socks: Even if your feet don't get wet from the rides, by the end of the night, they'll probably feel ... not the freshest. Have a pair of clean socks to change into — and put the old ones in one of the extra bags you've brought.

Liquid Bandage: If your shoes fail you, the waterproof sealant will protect your blistered heels.

Chafing powder or body glide: Because no one should have sticky, irritated thighs at the Happiest Place on Earth.

VIKTORIA CICHOŃ For The Times

JENN HARRIS Los Angeles Times

SPIKED DOLE WHIP? WE'LL DRINK TO THAT

TIKI TREATS AND OTHER BOOZY OPTIONS ABOUND

BY STEPHANIE BREIJO, CINDY CARCAMO, DANIELLE DORSEY AND JENN HARRIS

DON'T TELL the kids, but Disneyland parks are fun for adults too.

Sure, there's the joy of watching a child's face light up with pure wonderment as they see their favorite animated characters come to life. But what we're talking about is a good-old fashioned drink (or two), capable of shifting your "Happiest Place on Earth" barometer when tantrums or spills threaten to throw you off.

As the Disney brand continues to reorient itself and appeal to fans of all ages, drinking options at its parks have expanded. Just a couple of years ago, the velvet-roped Club 33 was Disneyland's only option for an alcoholic drink. Now there are more than 30 spots offering adult beverages across the Anaheim Disneyland campus, including galactic taverns where weary travelers recharge, Tuscany-inspired wine bars with ivy-wrapped roofs and a hidden tiki terrace where you can order the famous Dole Whip — spiked.

Although Disneyland has just a few bars, there are plenty of drinking hacks if you're set on tippling your way around the park. You're especially in luck at California Adventure, where you'll find a boozy option at just about every food spot. Whether gates are just creaking open, you've been chasing endlessly energetic tiny humans for hours or you need to top off your trip with something stronger than a lemonade, here's where to find a drink at Disneyland, California Adventure, Downtown Disney and the Disneyland hotels.

BALLAST POINT BREWING CO.

Boasting roughly 30 beers in rotation — plus cider, wine, seltzer, hard kombucha and canned cocktails — Ballast Point Brewing Co.'s tasting room overlooking Downtown Disney's main drag is an ideal place for beer lovers to perch. The San Diego-founded brewery's Anaheim outpost features a three-barrel operation for brewing small and experimental batches but sources its pours from all over, including other breweries. Ballast Point's famous Sculpin IPA can be found woven into dishes such as baked-then-fried buffalo wings, while the full beer menu includes sea-salt sours, a California-inspired Kölsch, Russian imperial stouts and Japanese-style lagers. Most come in four-, eight-, or 16-ounce pours or in to-go growlers to bring a taste back home. The California gastropub menu offers beer-pairing classics such as house-baked pretzels, burgers, wings and flatbreads plus aguachile, poke bowls, al pastor nachos and seared-ahi salad. — *S.B.*

● *1540 Disneyland Drive, #201, Anaheim, ballastpoint.com/location/ballast-point-anaheim*

CAPPUCCINO CART

You could breeze right past California Adventure's unassuming cappuccino cart, but to do so would be a mistake, especially if you're in search of something stronger than coffee. This tiny cart serves all the caffeinated requisites, using beans from Florida-based roaster Joffrey's Coffee & Tea Co., including drip coffee, lattes, mochas, nitro cold brew, hot cocoas, iced coffees and seasonal specials, but if you're looking for a caffeinated beverage with bite, it also offers coffee with alcoholic add-ins such as Kahlúa, Irish whiskey, hazelnut cream liqueur and Baileys, available hot or iced. Looking for something a bit sweeter? These can also find their way into hot chocolate, and they're all available as soon as the park opens. — *S.B.*

CARTHAY CIRCLE LOUNGE

The bar at Carthay Circle Lounge would hold its own outside California Adventure. Unusually, the Disney character branding here is minimal. With roomy leather armchairs and a beautiful dark-wood bar, you might forget where you are. The classic cocktails are excellent, with a proper martini, Negroni and Manhattan that rival any you'll find around town. If you have a favorite drink, order it here. Some recent favorites include the bar's rendition of a Tequila Daisy, concocted with Don Julio Reposado tequila, Cointreau, Crème Yvette violet liqueur, fresh lime, agave and egg whites; and the Double Pear martini, which offers pear three ways, with fresh pear nectar, pear vodka and a marinated baby pear garnish. — *J.H.*

STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times

JENN HARRIS Los Angeles Times

OVER BUDGET awaits at Lamplight Lounge, top. Pizza's a go-with at Splitsville, middle. Feeling brave? Try the Sea Monster's Embrace at Trader Sam's.

HOLLYWOOD LOUNGE

On a warm day, it's hard to ignore the many patrons walking around with yellow cups rimmed with chile-lime seasoning. If you ask, most will tell you they're sipping on a margarita, and they'll direct you to the Hollywood Lounge at Hollywood Land. The quick-service kiosk always seems to have a long line of adults waiting to slake their thirst with a libation. The cucumber margarita is one of its most popular concoctions, crafted with tequila, lime juice, triple sec, cucumber syrup, sour mix and that chile-lime rim. The lineup also includes beer, a margarita flight and the Backlot Michelada, a tomato-based michelada made with Modelo beer. The chicharrones are just OK but can be enhanced with hot sauce and lime. — *C.C.*

LAMPLIGHT LOUNGE

If you want to have a drink in the middle of an amusement park, the Lamplight Lounge is the place. Located on the Pixar Pier at California Adventure, the patio offers a view of the Incredicoaster and the Pixar Pal-A-Round. While you sip your drink, you can hear people screaming on the roller coaster just across the water, shake your head at the riders swinging in their carts on the Ferris wheel and contemplate your next ride. There's a full bar, and the bartenders will make any cocktail you can dream up, but there's a substantial list already on offer. Most lean playful and run sweet, including a Cinnamon Toast cocktail that incorporates vanilla vodka and cinnamon cereal-infused milk. For a fresh take on a classic Moscow Mule, try the Over Budget. It's a good, strong vodka and ginger beer mule with a tropical boost from Liquid Alchemist passion fruit syrup. — *J.H.*

MENDOCINO TERRACE

Mendocino Terrace is in an area of California Adventure that nods to Wine Country, one of a handful of businesses pushing California-made wines and cheese plates in the middle of lush greenery (with actual vines) and structures that resemble an Italian farmhouse. Any of the restaurants in the area, including Sonoma Terrace and Wine Country Trattoria, are good options for a glass of wine, with a decent selection of the most recognizable names in California wine. I'm partial to Mendocino Terrace for a relaxing glass of wine in between meals and rides. If you need a recommendation, the staff is helpful. If you're a wine connoisseur, I'm afraid the list won't excite or surprise you. And natural wine has not made its way into the Disneyland parks just yet. But anything from Flora Springs in Napa Valley, Justin in Paso Robles or Schweiger Vineyards in St. Helena should placate most wine drinkers. — *J.H.*

OGA'S CANTINA AT GALAXY'S EDGE

If you like unique, juice-forward cocktails, Oga's Cantina at Galaxy's Edge in Disneyland is a must. Most patrons come for the sugar-laden concoctions and unique Star Wars atmosphere, complete with droid DJ R-3X, a former Starspeeder 3000 pilot. The Outer Rim is one of the most popular cocktails, featuring Patrón Silver tequila, pomegranate liqueur, lime juice and cane sugar, topped with fruit purée and rimmed with black salt. One of the most inventive drinks has to be the Fuzzy Tauntaun, with Ciroc peach vodka, Bols peach schnapps, tangerine juice and sugar. It's a twist on the Fuzzy Navel, topped off with "Buzz Button Tingling" foam, made of Szechuan flower, which leaves an effervescent, tingly sensation on your lips. The cantina is mainly standing room with limited seating. If you're lucky enough to sit down, you'll likely be joining another party to share a booth. — *C.C.*

PYM TASTING LAB

On a hot day, the boozy offerings at the Pym Tasting Lab at the Avengers Campus at California Adventure may serve you well. The lab features a variety of craft beer options, spritzes and hard kombuchas. If you're looking for a cocktail, try the Tropical Hurricane, which features vodka and pineapple hurricane mix topped with fruit-flavor-filled boba. It's a fun drink and one of the more well-balanced options at the lab. If you're partial to sweet drinks, try the X-Periment, with Patrón Silver tequila, mango and habanero syrups and mango-flavor-filled boba. Limit of two alcoholic beverages per guest per transaction. — *C.C.*

RALPH BRENNAN'S JAZZ KITCHEN

You'll find the stiffest mint julep in the Downtown Disney district and possibly west of the Mississippi River at Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen, which is undergoing a remodel and soon will debut with a more California coastal feel. Mint leaves wrap around the sides of the rocks glass that's stacked with ice and filled to the brim with Buffalo Trace Bourbon, while house-infused mint simple syrup adds a slight herbaceous sweetness to the slow sipper. There's a full menu of classic New Orleans cocktails, as well as a Dole Whip-inspired Pineapple Milk with pineapple-infused vodka, piña colada mix and Dole pineapple juice. Order beignets on the side to soak up the booze. — *D.D.*

● *1590 Disneyland Drive, Anaheim, rbjazzkitchen.com/menus*

RITA'S BAJA BLENDERS

Ready to cool you down on a scorching summer day at California Adventure is Rita's Baja Blenders, serving strawberry and lemon-lime frozen margaritas, to which you can add a splash of liqueur for a $2 upcharge. Both options deliver a puckering, saccharine sweetness, but the strawberry has a hint of real fruit essence that makes it the better option. With these sugar-loaded drinks, you'll quickly forget you're consuming alcohol. — *D.D.*

SPLITSVILLE LUXURY LANES

Bowling might feel like a big commitment if you just want a drink, but Splitsville has plenty to do even if you don't want to knock down pins. Request to sit at the patio bar bordered by flatscreen TVs, overlooking Downtown Disney. If you're staying overnight, note that on-tap cocktails — including a margarita, a pink paloma and blueberry lemonade — can be ordered in 22-ounce souvenir squeeze bottles that you can bring back and refill for just $16. There are also syrupy signature cocktails like a smoky mango margarita with mezcal, in addition to draft beer and red and white wine by the glass and bottle. Splitsville's food menu is surprisingly broad for a bowling alley — choose from pizzas, burgers, sandwiches, salads, bowls, sushi, pasta entrees and more. — *D.D.*

● *1530 Disneyland Drive, Anaheim, (657) 276-2440, splitsvillelanes.com/location/anaheim*

TRADER SAM'S ENCHANTED TIKI BAR

Trader Sam's Enchanted tiki bar is tiny. Advance reservations are highly recommended if you want to sit inside the bar at the Disneyland Hotel. If you just want a few tiki drinks and appetizers outside, seats usually are available. You also can order a rum-spiked Dole Whip at the Tangaroa Terrace window around the corner. But I recommend that you have your drinks inside, because inside, drinks come with a show. Depending on which cocktail you order, lights will flash, sound effects will blare and the bar staff may even spray you with a water bottle. Like all good tiki bars, half the fun is taking in the scene, crammed with boat paraphernalia hanging from the ceiling and on the walls, tiki totems on the bar, leis, masks, flags — you get the idea. Some drinks are meant for one. Others come in a bowl with multiple straws. If you're willing to share, the Sea Monster's Embrace is a pineapple-forward punch with orange, lime and passion fruit. It's spiked with Real McCoy and Plantation dark rums, New Amsterdam gin, E&J brandy and falernum. A basket of the crispy fried long beans makes for a pretty good snack. And if you love your tiki mug or bowl so much that you want to take it home, you can, for an extra charge. — *J.H.*

For more information on specific food and drink establishments at Disneyland Resort, visit disneyland.disney.go.com/dining

DISNEY RIDES, RANKED

YOUR MILEAGE MAY VARY, BUT OUR CRITIC MAKES THE CASE FOR HIS FAVORITES

BY TODD MARTENS

DISNEYLAND SINCE 1955 has stood as a beacon of optimism, a Southern California institution and rite of passage that has shifted with and reflected back our myths and pop culture sensibilities. ¶ In this sense every attraction, I believe, is special in some way, even the ones I rarely visit. ¶ But my editor had a challenge for me: Rank them. ¶ It wasn't easy. How, for instance, does one weigh nostalgia, an individualistic trait, versus public popularity? And what takes greater precedence, historic value or the bleeding edge? How do the newer attractions at California Adventure fit within the broader context of the Disneyland Resort? ¶ Disneyland is a capitalist theme park, but it has become something akin to a national park. The façades of Main Street, U.S.A., may have a backlot feel, and Sleeping Beauty Castle may lack the full majesty of its German inspiration, but they aren't "fake" — they're very real landmarks. ¶ A disclaimer: I visit the parks multiple times per month and would never call an attraction "bad," per se, so think of this as a list from the best to not the best Disneyland has to offer. My top 20 are listed below; find the complete list at *latimes.com/disneylandresort*. Some of the rides I ranked lowest tend to be ones I visit regularly, sometimes simply because the lines are shorter.

I took a broad view to what an attraction can be, including, for instance, some game-like experiences. But I left off daily entertainment such as parades, nighttime shows and theatrical presentations.

Also left off: Splash Mountain, as the ride is being rethemed to Tiana's Bayou Adventure, modeled after the movie "The Princess and the Frog." While I am a fan of the change, it's only fair to wait to see the remodeled attraction rather than rank something that will be closing May 30.

I think of Disneyland as a living pop culture and art museum, which changes with each generation and aims to capture that era's sensibilities. If one considers a theme park attraction a work of art, then it must stand some test of time and also say something about the medium it represents. Within that framework, I don't think my top choice is controversial — but you're welcome to disagree. Politely. We're talking about the Happiest Place on Earth, after all.

1 IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Yes, really. Don't stop reading yet. Hear me out.

The charm, the whimsy, the dolls, the unforgettable song — only Sleeping Beauty Castle more instantly says "Disneyland" than It's a Small World. One of the park's most recognizable and longstanding attractions remains among its most striking and visionary.

No other ride at Disneyland so directly represents the flair and artistic style of the people who created it, making It's a Small World not just a gem of an attraction but an endangered species in an era of all movie-and-TV-inspired rides.

More than that, the ride, a symbol of the idealism of globalism, is filled with wonders that continue to reveal themselves after dozens of rides. Marvel at an off-kilter sun, smile at blue-tinged goats and star-filled kangaroos, and try and fail to count the creatures, the musicians, the hot air balloons, the squawking ducks or any of the other countless objects of weirdness.

Each time I ride — and I've probably ridden more than 100 times — I'm still able to see characters and creatures as if discovering them for the first time. Was that always there, you'll often wonder, and the answer is most assuredly yes, but It's a Small World is so filled with toy-like details that you'll never be quite sure.

The innocent dolls and abundance of playfulness were all designed in the style of Mary Blair, so much so that it can feel like a constantly moving art museum dedicated to her color-heavy, whimsical methodology.

Rolly Crump conceived the ride's oversized toy façade — a clock that comes alive, perpetually locked with a determined smile — as a way to welcome guests into a world of colorfully silly vignettes.

There was no stylebook that accompanied this attraction when it was created. Though there are other renditions at various Disney parks, this is the original, and there's no other ride quite like it in the world.

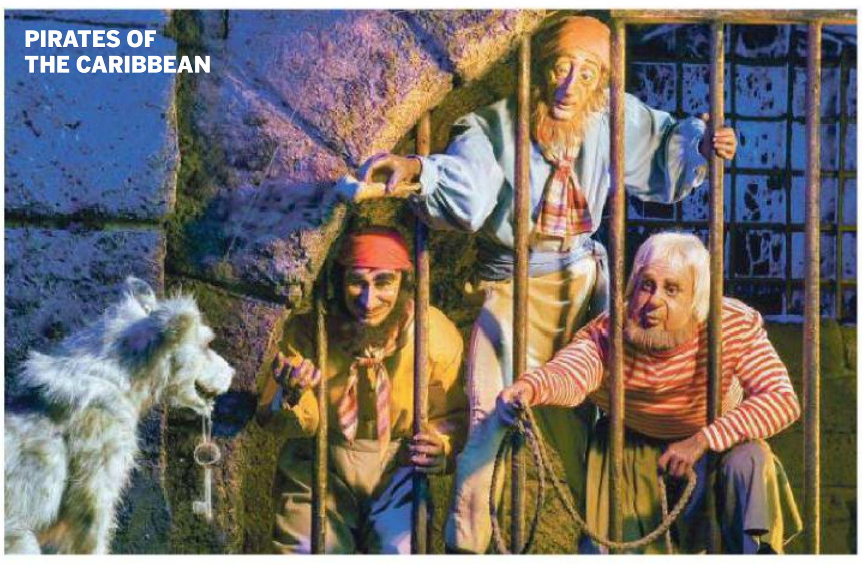
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Walt Disney once famously said guests will experience Pirates of the Caribbean like a dinner party, hearing snippets of conversations here and there and getting just a piece of the story as they move through it. In turn, Pirates of the Caribbean, which opened in 1967, has become the template for nearly every theme park attraction that has come after it.

A collection of scenes rather than a hardened narrative, Pirates of the Caribbean allows guests to put together the pieces, to wonder about the haunting voices in the cavern, the countless rum-swigging pirates and the sieges and auctions that dot the 15-minute-plus ride.

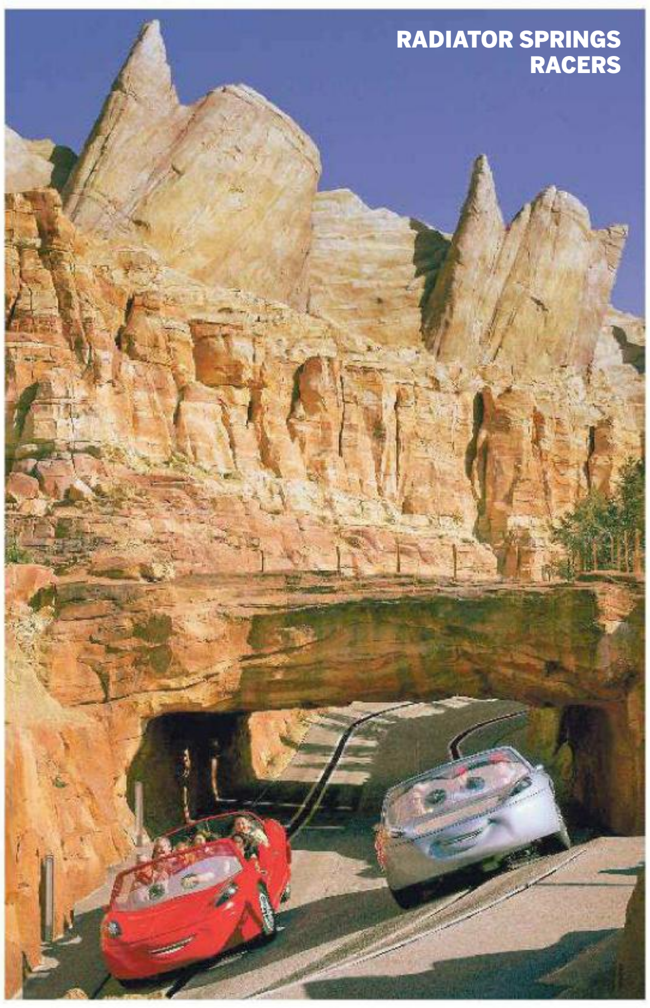
But what brings us back are the characters, many capturing Marc Davis' exaggerated but approachable style. Davis had a knack for excitable caricatures that feel realistic, and in turn make the spacious ride feel intimate. The pirates' cherry-colored cheeks are more inviting than frightening, and figures like the auctioneer command our attention time and time again.

There's an underlying thesis, a warning about humanity's vices, greed and gluttony, but Davis' designs make it all look like a joyous affair. Most important, by focusing on themes rather than plot, the ride remains endlessly repeatable. This isn't a story we experience; this is a story we imagine, and everyone's reading will differ some. It's a lesson that also would be used to great effect in 1969's Haunted Mansion.

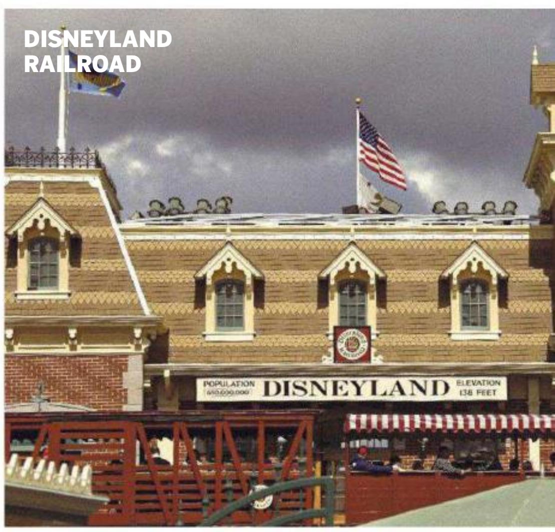

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

GEORGE SAVVAS Disney

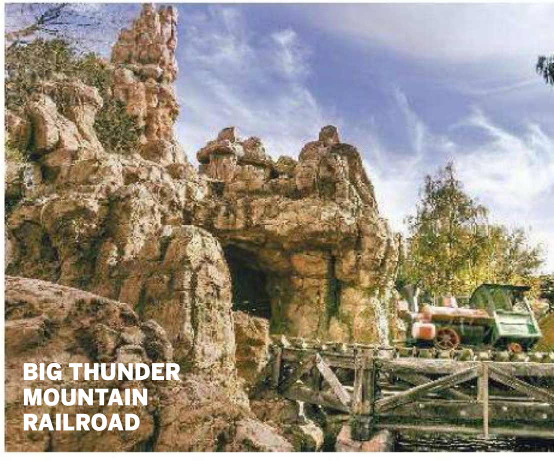
IT'S A SMALL WORLD


RADIATOR SPRINGS RACERS

MATT STROSHANE Disneyland


DISNEYLAND RAILROAD

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times


BIG THUNDER MOUNTAIN RAILROAD

JOSHUA SUDOCK Disneyland Resort

3 HAUNTED MANSION

It's the haunted house at its most humorous and mystical, where singing busts serenade rather than scare, floating instruments chime around us and paintings stretch to reveal a man in his underpants. Additions over the years — the famed "Hatbox Ghost," whose head is one moment in its proper place and seconds later disembodied at his side — have only served to heighten the mystery.

Is there a proper plot to explain the murderous bride in the attic, the lively ballroom and its dancing apparitions, or the kings, opera singers and cats cavorting in a cemetery? Or is the Mansion simply a place to delight, to reassure us that what awaits us on the other side is but a swinging wake?

The answer remains elusive, making the Haunted Mansion one of Disneyland's greatest puzzles. It's also evidence that old-fashioned theater tricks can still charm, and a Pepper's ghost illusion is sometimes all you need to wow an audience. Its clash of styles — those colorful Marc Davis characters mesh with the expansive, eerie backdrops of Claude Coats — result in an environment that tempers each frightening image with silliness, making it truly unlike any other haunted experience.

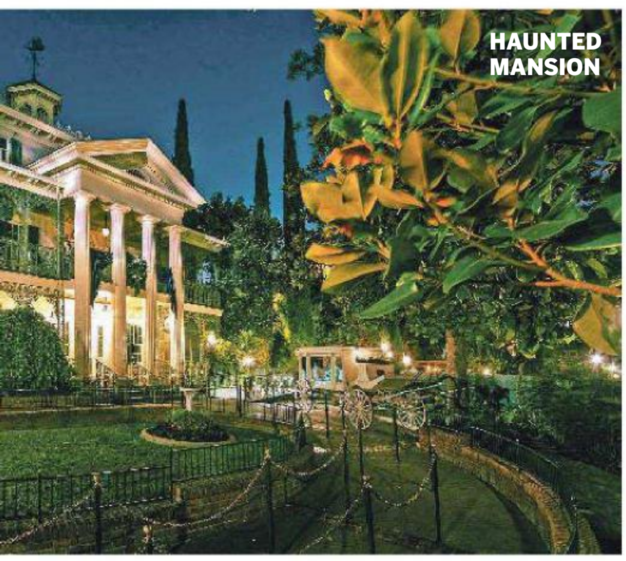
Its narrative — or lack of one — still inspires debate today. I won't attempt to tell you what it all means. Anyone who claims they know likely isn't to be trusted. But I do believe the ride leaves us with a message when a ghost follows us home: The stressors we face on this mortal plane someday won't matter, so live it up.

4 STAR WARS: RISE OF THE RESISTANCE

If It's a Small World, Pirates of the Caribbean and the Haunted Mansion represent Disneyland's foundational attractions, Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance represents its future.

This is one ride where the time outside of the ride vehicle is as impressive as the time spent inside it, as we traverse caverns, meet the BB-8 droid and Daisy Ridley's Rey, and then board a transport ship to take us to space, where we're imprisoned and then rescued. That such a gigantic and technically impressive theme park attraction can manage to feel personal is truly a feat.

The nearly 20-minute experience is a mashup of some of the best of what theme parks have to offer. The ride feels as if it was crafted to respond to us. Its



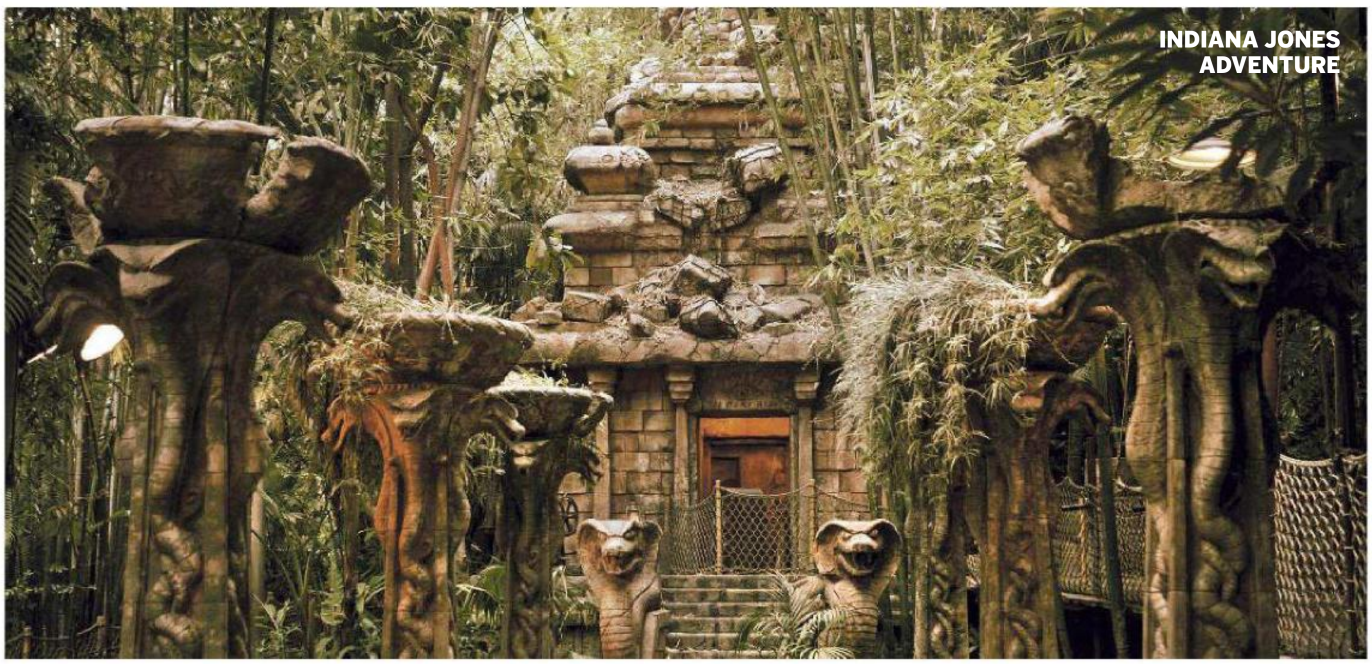
Joshua Sudock Disneyland Resort

STAR WARS: RISE OF THE RESISTANCE

Kent Phillips

"it's a small world"
New York World's Fair
August 8, 1966
Roy E. Disney

Paul Hiffmeyer



Joshua Sudock Disneyland Resort

DISNEYLAND MONORAIL

AaronP Bauer-Griffin / GC Images

SNOW WHITE'S ENCHANTED WISH

Christian Thompson Disneyland Resort

extended opening scenes marry bits of immersive theater with theme park illusion.The ride vehicle moves in an unpredictable fashion, at least until Kylo Ren pulls us toward him by using the Force, a particularly effective scene that helps the ride feel alive.

There are light thrills — an elevator drop in the finale continues to surprise — but mostly old-school, dark-ride lessons, like tricks of the light and a clever use of mirrors. In short, it is theme park theater at its most ambitious — but it is definitely theater.

5 RADIATOR SPRINGS RACERS

The best thrill ride at the Disneyland Resort is one that masquerades as a dark ride. Radiator Springs Racers puts guests three to a row in individual cars, allowing us first to take in the scenes. And as far as theme park rides go, those scenes can be pretty breathtaking, especially the close-up look at the magnificently large Southwest-inspired mountains. The music swells as our car turns a bend and fixates on a bridge and a waterfall, transporting us to a makeshift national park off of Route 66.

The pace picks up as we venture into Radiator Springs, the town of the "Cars" films, and get spruced up before a race. We don't have time to linger, but you'll wish you could jump out and hang with the likes of Lightning McQueen.

When it's time to race, Radiator Springs Racers doesn't skimp, as the curve-focused track has us feeling like we're moving faster and more dramatically than we actually are. If it wasn't for an early fart joke, it'd be perfect, but Radiator Springs Racers still represents the best of Disney, delivering thrills with a side of narrative.

6 DISNEYLAND RAILROAD

This is no simple mode of transportation. And to judge the Disneyland Railroad as just a place to catch your breath between "real" rides is to overlook it.

The transformative experience of visiting Disneyland begins not with a clear view of Sleeping Beauty Castle but instead with the journey through the Main Street Railroad Station. It's a symbol that where we are entering will be taking us to places unknown.

For Disneyland in particular, the railroad is a reminder of the park's close connection to its founder, Walt Disney, whose love of trains led him to build his backyard miniature train, the Carolwood Pacific. On it, an S-curve tunnel kept parts of the path hidden to heighten the small-scale theatricality. It was the beginning of Disney's approach to theme park design.

The train has undergone various modifications over the decades but today remains a leisurely way to get acquainted with Disneyland and its wonders.

It's also a reminder that the best way to enjoy Disneyland is with a little patience, and to bask in the details. Make sure to stop and say hello to the conductors and train operators in the Main Street Station. They're full of historic tidbits.

7 BIG THUNDER MOUNTAIN RAILROAD

Whether it's a wayward goat with a stick of dynamite or the remains of a prehistoric creature, Big Thunder Mountain keeps heads turning as we barrel forward. It remains a masterpiece, and proof that high-speed thrills don't have to skimp on storytelling.

Frontierland has always been a part of Disneyland with lots of movement and life, going back to the park's opening years when pack mules and Western characters populated the area. That Old West spirit is still there today, with bits of theater in the Golden Horseshoe, the vessels of the Rivers of America and, of course, the not-quite-runaway train that is Big Thunder Mountain Railroad.

Since 1979, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad has given Frontierland a slice of Bryce Canyon National Park, where landscapes rise and dip and keep guests guessing on the flow of the track. Parts of the ride, like the ghost town of Rainbow Ridge and the glowing traps of water on the first major lift, nod to Frontierland's pre-thrill-ride past. But its rockwork, animals and explosions are all indicative of the type of world-building that sets the best Disney coasters apart from its competitors.

8 INDIANA JONES ADVENTURE

Indiana Jones Adventure represented a change in theme park design. "On Pirates of the Caribbean, for instance, the pirates are doing their thing and you just eavesdrop on them," now retired Imagineer Tony Baxter told The Times in 1995. "Here, everything is happening because of you."

At least that's the illusion, as all the havoc that's wreaked is designed to be in response to guests' actions. Once we look into the eyes of the deity Mara, Indiana Jones Adventure becomes all controlled chaos.

Even the ride vehicles seem to respond to our emotions, inching forward at one point and hitting the accelerator the next. The cars feel curious and fearful, but Indiana Jones Adventure mainly aims to excite, and its giant, multitiered showroom is filled with rickety bridges, lava pools, snakes, bugs and, of course, a giant rock ball that threatens to flatten us. The latter is an especially noteworthy piece of theme park trickery that we won't spoil, but Indiana Jones Adventure is filled floor to ceiling with effects designed to make us wonder how they did it.

9 DISNEYLAND MONORAIL

Yes, I think the Monorail is one of the best attractions at Disneyland. Try to imagine Disneyland without it. Think of driving or walking down Harbor Boulevard and not seeing the Monorail glide above us, signaling that Disneyland is a place out of the ordinary.

When the Disneyland Monorail debuted in 1959 it was the first transportation system of its kind in America. Today it's used primarily by guests staying at the Disneyland Hotel who want a quick escape back to Downtown Disney, but it's much more than a simple transit system.

The Monorail is key to Disneyland's long-standing majesty.

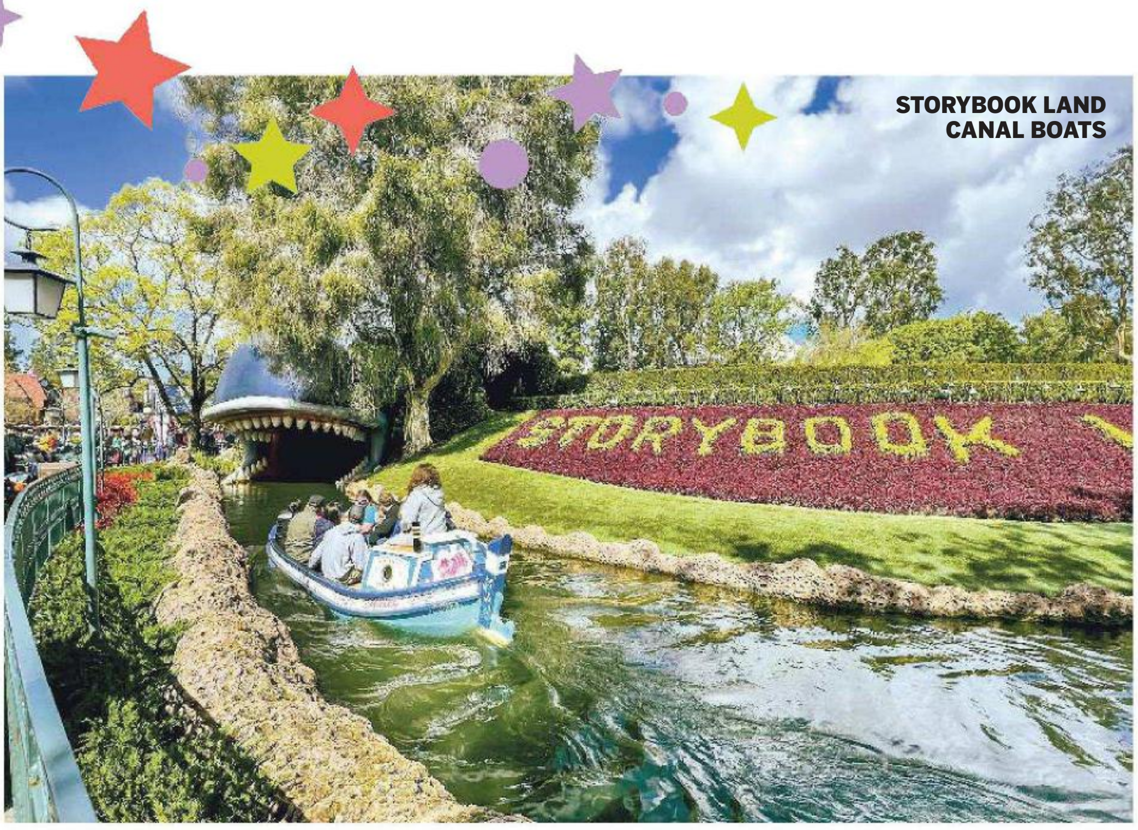
Whether one glimpses it soaring over Harbor Boulevard or gliding around the Matterhorn, the Monorail, today with a retro-futuristic look, is a statement piece — a reminder that we are someplace where normal rules, and typical modes of transportation, don't apply.

Ride it from Downtown Disney, and get a rare view down Main Street and of Fantasyland. And take some time to catch it moving around the Matterhorn and Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage. Or just walk around Fantasyland and Tomorrowland and look up. Part of what keeps us moving around Disneyland is all the activity that surrounds us.

10 SNOW WHITE'S ENCHANTED WISH

The reimagining of this Disneyland attraction — formerly known as Snow White's Scary Adventures — has made it my favorite place in Fantasyland.

Enchanted Wish wraps its arms around feelings of adoration, endearment, friendship and the hope that, through love, we don't become rescued so much as better versions of ourselves. It also puts more effort into using technology to freshen up 1950s-era craftsmanship rather than going full modern, resulting in a work that feels nostalgic but also of-the-moment.

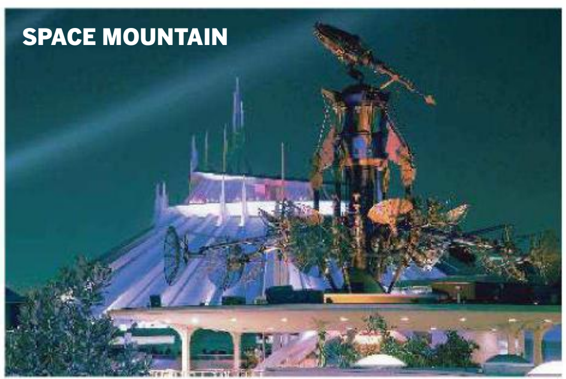


STORYBOOK LAND CANAL BOATS

TODD MARTENS Los Angeles Times

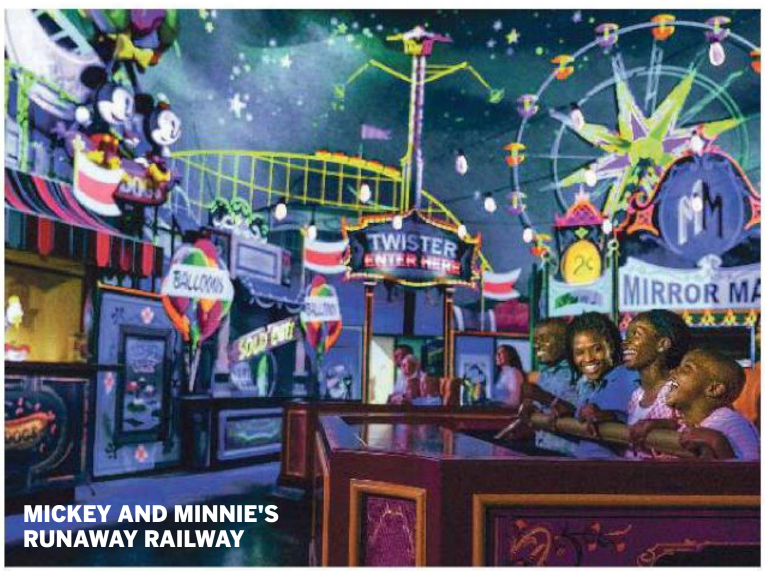
ENCHANTED TIKI ROOM

PAUL HIFFMEYER



SPACE MOUNTAIN

PAUL HIFFMEYER



MICKEY AND MINNIE'S RUNAWAY RAILWAY

MATT STROSHANE Disneyland

ROGER RABBIT'S CAR TOON SPIN

CHRISTIAN THOMPSON Disneyland Resort

SOARIN' OVER CALIFORNIA

CHRISTIAN THOMPSON Disneyland Resort

JUNGLE CRUISE

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

MAIN STREET VEHICLES

TODD MARTENS Los Angeles Times

STAR TOURS: THE ADVENTURES CONTINUE

Disney/Lucasfilm Ltd.

Fun fact: When the ride opened, it didn't feature Snow White, as Disney's Imagineers hoped guests would see themselves as the main character. That didn't work, and the ride has adapted and grown with our understanding of themed entertainment. Today it's more mystical than scary. Clever touches, such as a blink-and-you'll-miss-it animated crystal ball, abound.

11 WALT DISNEY'S ENCHANTED TIKI ROOM

A historic first, as Walt Disney's Enchanted Tiki Room marked the introduction of audio-animatronic figures to the park in 1963. This tropical serenade, where island gods, singing plants and an assortment of musical island birds welcome us into their home for a festive gathering, initially was envisioned as a dinner show.

Capacity concerns were a large factor in nixing that idea, but the Enchanted Tiki Room still stands today as an electronic-enhanced revue, where gradually the entire room comes alive in light and sound.

This is a place to absorb the details. Check the tiki drummers. These mystical creatures look a bit like monkeys, and they attack their instruments with a ferocious intensity. The choirs of plants and flowers are a constant surprise, as once-static decorations spring into action when called upon.

All eyes, of course, are on José, the lead macaw who directs the Polynesian-inspired orchestra. Sing along — you know the words of the main Sherman Brothers tune — but don't get too loud. You wouldn't want to anger the gods.

12 JUNGLE CRUISE

Disneyland's Jungle Cruise has set sail in the park's Adventureland area since 1955, and it stands today as one of the remaining opening-day attractions overseen by Walt Disney himself. It's a ride that has grown with the park. Animals in 1955 were scarce — just seven animatronic hippos and eight crocodiles were present in the water — and the vast vegetation had not yet grown to mask nearby buildings. Many of the ride's most beloved scenes, such as the elaborate elephant bathing pool, were dreamed up by animator-turned-Imagineer Marc Davis and added in the 1960s.

The ride has continued to undergo transformations, and more recently was updated to remove unsavory tribal depictions.

But there's a reason it has remained in the park since 1955, and it's not just the up-roar-ious puns. The Jungle Cruise is akin to an early animated film sprung to life, with cartoonish depictions of animals going nuts on holiday decorations or chasing jungle explorers up a pole.

It's lighthearted screwball comedy, on a boat.

13 MICKEY AND MINNIE'S RUNAWAY RAILWAY

Part old-school theme park attraction, part love letter to animation and part modern showcase of projection technology, Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway is the latest addition to Disneyland's Toontown, its second but most fitting home. The Walt Disney World import is a nostalgia-fueled charmer.

There are plenty of nods to modern theme park flourishes in the trackless attraction — characters look at us, talk to us, direct us, dance with us and give the illusion of responding to us — but the ride is a standout in the Anaheim park's portfolio for its they-don't-make-'em-like-they-used-to ethos.

Relatively slow-moving, family-friendly and full of tiny, blacklighted details, the attraction serves as a fully realized animated short sprung to life. Ultimately, it manages to tonally feel like a wild 1930s short, with a train springing apart and taking riders into tropical hideaways, down waterfalls and into a dance lesson with Daisy Duck. It isn't deep, but it is silly, and it blissfully follows a Disney-paved formula of theme park design where vignettes take precedence over a definitive plot.

14 PETER PAN'S FLIGHT

Peter Pan's Flight is an opening-day attraction that still feels among Disneyland's most distinctive. That's thanks largely to its ride system, in which we board mini pirate ships and are lifted into the air like Wendy, John, and Michael, out of a bedroom and into the sky above London.

And what a magnificent London it is! Landmarks are outlined in blacklighted colors; tiny streets and handcrafted houses gradually diminish in size as the ride effectively creates the illusion of us gliding higher and higher. Despite utilizing age-old theater tricks, it remains one of the most successful vignettes at the resort, allowing us to not only imagine but experience the effects of a little pixie dust.

The twinkling lights and sparkling windows are as vibrant as they are in the animated film. We only wish we had more time to take it all in. Soon, however, we are whisked into scenes that follow the film's storyline, and we'll meet the likes of Peter, Captain Hook, Smee and Tick-Tock the Crocodile as we drift from Skull Rock to duels at sea.

It's a ride full of whimsy and wonder. Though it dates to Disneyland's beginnings, it still feels ambitious, wanting to bring us into Neverland rather than simply presenting it before us. That's not to say aspects aren't a bit dated — its depiction of Native Americans is in need of an update. Here's hoping a refresh isn't too far off in the future.

15 SOARIN' OVER CALIFORNIA

The original Soarin', and one that's significantly superior to its more global update, Soarin' Around the World.

Unfortunately, this Disney California Adventure exclusive is available for only a few weeks of the year, usually returning with the park's Food & Wine Festival. Try not to miss it, as it's a transportive joy, a love letter to our state that's a celebration of California's wildly diverse landscapes. Despite being a screen-based attraction, the hang-glider-like ride system and enveloping 80-foot projection dome still manage to conjure a sense of grandeur.

We launch among the clouds, which part and place us above the magnificence of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. We'll eventually make our way to downtown Los Angeles and Disneyland, but not before venturing into Yosemite National Park, Malibu, Palm Springs and more.

We'll get glimpses of sport — golf, skiing — and industry, with a blast of orange-scented spray transporting us to more serene locales (or the orange groves that once sat on the land that would become Disneyland). It all works so well because of the music, the triumphantly optimistic score coming courtesy of composer Jerry Goldsmith ("Alien," "L.A. Confidential"). We only wish it was available year-round.

16 ROGER RABBIT'S CAR TOON SPIN

When Disney announced that Toontown would close in 2022 for a yearlong makeover, a segment of the fandom held its breath that Roger Rabbit's Car Toon Spin would survive the refresh. Blissfully, it would, and Toontown — and Disneyland — is all the better for it.

The landmark 1988 film "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" remains a standout for its oddness in the Walt Disney Co. canon, and Roger Rabbit's Car Toon Spin is a masterful dark-ride homage to it, one that's full of charm while capturing the film's weirdness.

Consider it the closest thing to a cult-favorite attraction that there is, as Car Toon Spin falls somewhere between the Disneyland classics and today's more recognizable brands. Hop in a cab and start spinning the wheel, and feel yourself slipping and sliding along greased-up paths.

Jessica Rabbit, as a detective in hero noir mode, is here, as are the film's weasel villains and plenty of disconnected Roger Rabbit-inspired frivolity. One second we're in a warehouse, the next we're falling out of a skyscraper. Don't miss the queue, as the stroll through a claustrophobic Toontown is one of the park's best. It can be a tight fit, but it's worth it.

17 STORYBOOK LAND CANAL BOATS

Walt Disney is said to have loved miniatures, and this opening-day attraction contains some of the most exquisitely crafted fairy tale miniatures in the park. Tucked away in Fantasyland, the calming boat ride is more robust than it looks from the outside: Once our tour begins, we can relax for about six minutes as we leisurely glide past scenes from "Three Little Pigs," "Pinocchio," "Frozen" and more.

All are attention-grabbing — the quaint English village and water mill from "Alice in Wonderland," the glistening palace of Agrabah from "Aladdin" and the multilevel "Cinderella" village with its majestic castle at the top.

But what truly makes the ride a can't-miss is the live tour guides who accompany us on each boat, dropping details about the figurines and reminding us of the plots of Disney's best-known works. Such a personal touch is a Disneyland original.

18 SPACE MOUNTAIN

Though it didn't open until 1977, Space Mountain dates to the Walt era — in the mid-1960s, he challenged designers to create a ride to complement the Matterhorn.The space race was on, and the thrill of exploration via rocket ship was a tantalizing concept. Early incarnations of the ride had one boarding the rockets outside and circling the mountain before jumping into the darkness of space. The idea of a space ride would come in and out of favor over the years, but thanks to a sponsorship, the concept achieved liftoff in the 1970s.

It remains a high-speed joy, one that captures the optimism and excitement of venturing into outer space. We begin on a lift through a solar field and eventually hit a speed of about 32 mph as gravity powers us around tight banking curves. Today's score, by Michael Giacchino ("Up"), adds the necessary mystery to all the darkened cosmos that we strain and struggle to see. Flashing lights and a photo op bring us back to earth, but for a few minutes we felt like we were somewhere else, thanks to the unexpected turns of the vehicles and illusions of weightlessness.

Space Mountain typically has some of the longest waits in the park, and more thrill-based riders probably would rank it in their top 10, but I tend to crave more scenic charm when at Disneyland.

19 MAIN STREET VEHICLES

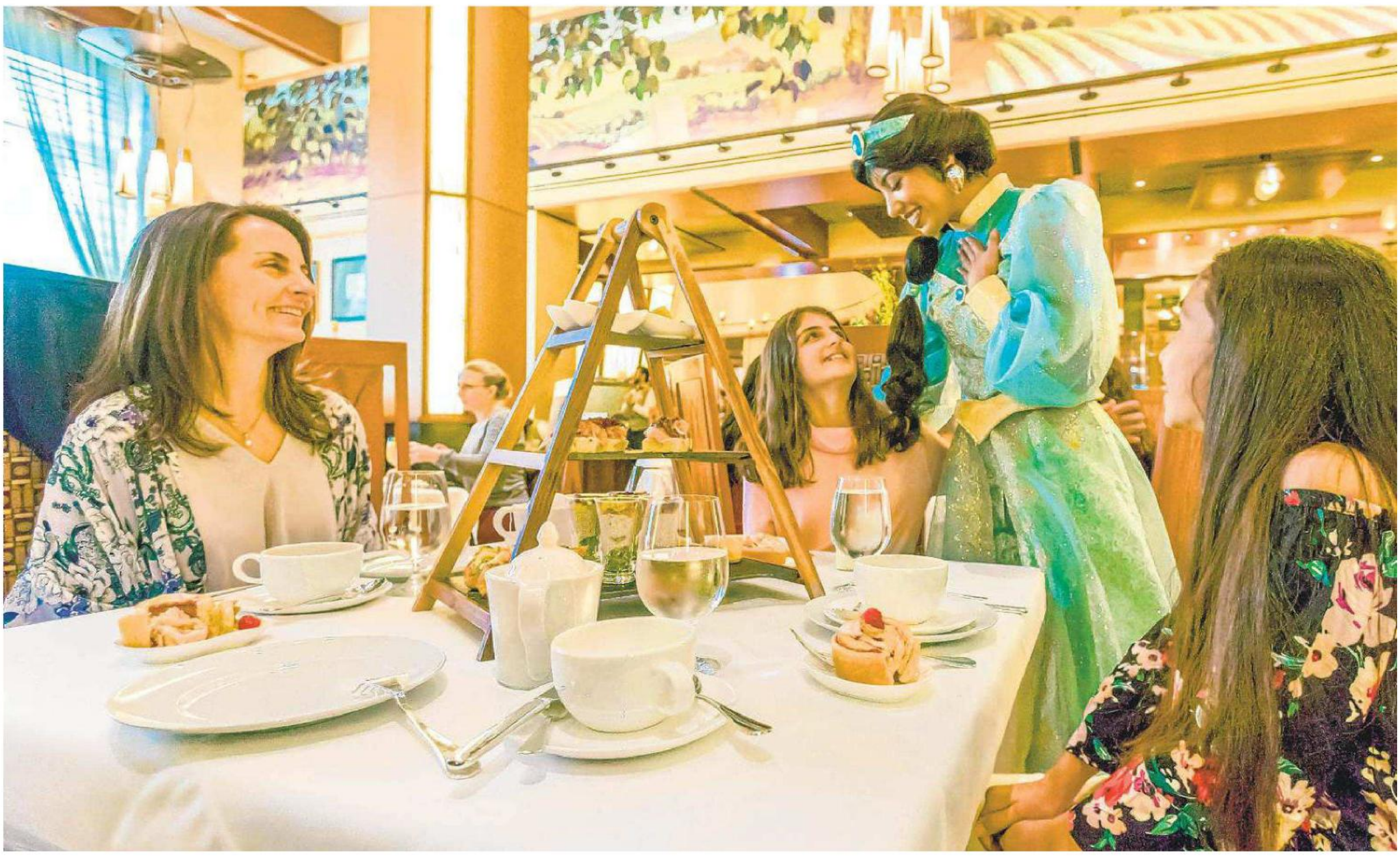
The best way to start a day at Disneyland is not to rush to your favorite ride. It is to sit in a horse-drawn streetcar and imagine a time when SoCal mass transit not only works but is leisurely and stress-free. What a pure, only-in-Disneyland delight it is to board at the tip of Main Street near the entrance to the park and watch Sleeping Beauty Castle materialize from behind the mane of a horse.

Not your style? Try the Jitney, an early convertible. Or the Omnibus, a two-story bus that offers perfect views of the Main Street windows that honor those who helped bring Disneyland to life. Disneyland doesn't need to be all hustle, all hurry-up and wait. In fact, it's best when it isn't and you can take time to appreciate the details.

20 STAR TOURS: THE ADVENTURES CONTINUE

All rides are products of their time, some more than others. A screen-based motion simulator, no matter how well updated and maintained, screams, "This was made in the '80s." But Star Tours: The Adventures Continue continues to thrill by offering guests a simple, straightforward story and variety, both in theme park tricks — the ride and its queue contain audio-animatronics — and in its multitude of vistas that essentially ensure no two trips will be the same, at least when the attraction isn't locked to a series of scenes in promotion of a particular property.

Having been updated over the years to contain 3-D as well as scenes from the new "Star Wars" films, Star Tours mixes the humor of the franchise with its action and pays no heed to continuity. We board our "Starspeeders" in the hopes of a calming tour of the galaxy, but this is a theme park thrill ride so we know our plans will be laid to waste. Star Tours still manages to surprise, especially when the Starspeeders whip out their windshield wipers.



Joshua Sudock Disneyland Resort

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Is the bloom off of Napa Rose?

DISNEY'S FINE-DINING DESTINATION DEFINITELY OFFERS CHARM, BUT IT NEEDS AN UPDATE TO CAPTURE CALIFORNIA'S MAGIC

BY BILL ADDISON RESTAURANT CRITIC

YOU'RE CONSIDERING a special-occasion meal while visiting Disneyland, and you've never been to Napa Rose in Disney's Grand Californian Hotel. You learn, with not much surprise, that dinner slots at this pinnacle of the Disneyland Resort's fine-dining options often book up two months in advance. Should you set calendar alerts and strategize a reservation? ¶ Let me throw out a few questions first: ¶ Are you, or will you be in the company of, a Disney completist? Are you up for a splurge meal where a four-course dinner costs $125 per person or an a la carte filet mignon rings in at $62? Have you scanned a recent menu and found the broadly Cal-Ital theme of the cooking appealing? Are you keen to indulge in a deep list of California reds with bottle prices that quickly escalate into the three digits? Is unusually attentive and polished service a priority when you're dining in this kind of setting? ¶ If you're already checking for availability, allow me to ripple the waters: I find Napa Rose to be a gracious experience, though as a 22-year-old hotel restaurant it also falls back on some pointedly outmoded notions of upscale dining.

Walking past the Grand Californian's sliding stained-glass doors and being enveloped by the building's spiring lodge design inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement feels fantastically Disney — an enterprise that comes as close as any entity on earth to creating parallel universes in which our realities and their illusions can become all but indistinguishable. Part of me eases into its flagship restaurant's face-value pleasures, yet another part keeps my eyes on the exit sign, chewing over the context in which the restaurant exists in the larger world.

When Napa Rose opened in January 2001, it had been designed with the ambition to distinguish itself beyond the resort's framework — to be a turn-of-the-millennium destination in step with the seasonal notions of California cooking, specifically billed as "Wine Country cuisine" as a way to frame the restaurant's impressive cellar, overseen in its first years by industry veteran and master sommelier Michael Jordan. He procured costly cult rarities from Napa wineries like Harlan and Screaming Eagle among his selection of nearly 1,000 bottles (heavy, of course, on Golden State producers) and also focused on in-house education, preparing cooks and dining room staff to pass the Level 1 exam from the Court of Master Sommeliers.

Doris Cain

Napa Rose

Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, 1600 Disneyland Drive, Anaheim, (714) 781-4636, *disneyland.disney.go.com*

Details: Dinner 5:30-9 p.m. nightly. Full bar. Hotel valet parking.

Prices: Four-course prix fixe menu $125. A la carte starters and pastas $23-$26, entrees $46-$62, desserts $17-$20. Menus and prices change frequently.

Recommended dishes: Nightly changing four-course menu; a la carte "smiling tiger" salad, duck, seasonal fruit desserts

To lead the kitchen, Disney execs recruited Andrew Sutton, a chef they hired away from Auberge du Soleil in Napa and whose résumé included the Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas. Sutton filled his menu with the California ingredient signifiers of the day: grilled meats, pizza with smoked salmon a la Wolfgang Puck, spinach salads, Laura Chenel goat cheese, desserts bright with citrus in the winter and sun-drenched with stone fruits in the summer. He designed dishes with evident pairings in mind: vanilla-scented lobster sauce with scallops to complement Chardonnay; meaty entrees with potent herbs and rich reductions that could stand shoulder to shoulder with big, smoky reds.

More than two decades later, Sutton has risen to culinary director. In addition to Napa Rose, he oversees Carthay Circle in California Adventure, as well as private spaces for the ultra-privileged — among them 21 Royal, the hideaway in New Orleans Square for which up to 12 people pay $15,000 an evening for a coursed dinner with lots of Disney bonuses, and members-only Club 33, with its famous years-long waiting list.

Sutton and Napa Rose's executive chef, Clint Chin (who has previously been chef de cuisine for both 21 Royal and Club 33), keep gentle pace with evolving tastes. Produce grown across California comes and goes in step with the calendar. A dinner in March captured the teetering winter-to-spring moment: tangerine slivers scattered over tuna crudo, asparagus spears sheathed in tempura batter and lightened with Meyer lemon vinaigrette, English peas dotting roast chicken and butternut squash accenting grilled filet mignon. Executive pastry chef Jorge Sotelo assembled a collage of Harry's Berries strawberries, anchored by an almond cake stained with candy-red juices.

Among the meal's standouts was a mainstay that looks beyond the menu's Italian-leaning baseline — a riff on the northeastern Thai grilled beef dish suea rong hai, a.k.a. "crying tiger." Of course, in classic Disney fashion, Napa Rose turns the frown upside down and christens its version "smiling tiger," shrouding the beef strips marinated with chiles, fish sauce and lime juice under salad greens and pairing them with appealingly bouncy lemongrass shrimp fritters.

Cooks decorate the smiling tiger plate with splatters of coconut milk vinaigrette in a pattern not unlike the brocades of fireworks one might glimpse bursting over Sleeping Beauty Castle. Much of the plating recalls a faded 1990s era of busy, architectural aesthetics: ingredients stacked and bunched for maximum height; sauces and purees swooped, dotted and artfully pooled; leaves and stems perched atop just so.

Within a strict Disney prism, the bygone theatricality makes a timeless sort of logic: Whether it's Mickey-shaped waffles or a turkey leg that could double as a club or a pyrotechnic display forged from salad dressing, some sort of wow factor comes with the territory. There's a good reason, though, that the more-is-more style receded in fine dining: Extravagant saucing and garnishing tends to muddle flavors and textures. The asparagus starter didn't need a thickened ribbon of cream mis-advertised as "asparagus panna cotta." On one entree, an unexpected heap of vegetables with stray lentils and a spoonful of diced poached rhubarb obscured the direct pleasure of blushing, beautifully seared duck breast.

Jordan left Napa Rose in 2009, but the program he established continues to impress in its commitment to showcasing California winemaking. By-the-glass options include a few pricier favorites like Silver Oak poured from refrigerated dispensers that preserve their freshness. Bottles of Napa Cabernets quickly ascend into the hundreds and thousands. A 2012 Gandona Winery Encosta — a selection on the relative low pricing end for $190 — delivered the kind of structured, earthy-jammy joy on which the region built its reputation. It hit the same receptors as eating a righteous cheeseburger, and I mean that as a compliment.

David Nguyen

David Nguyen

DINING AT Napa Rose comes with a side of Disney magic, from top. The "smiling tiger" salad is a standout, offered alongside seasonal California dishes like asparagus in the Arts and Crafts-inspired dining room.

The front-of-house staff maintains the practice of doubling as sommeliers. They're well-versed in describing the flight of $60 wine pairings that can accompany the tasting menu; recently most of the glasses veered away from California to France, Italy, Chile or Australia. Since this is a more affordable way for diners to be exposed to wines, and California winemaking has so much breadth these days, the choices could lean closer to home.

Our server that night was wonderful: informed, kind, just chatty enough. She also had plenty of tables to take care of. I really wanted to talk shop about wine, this element that defines the restaurant; she was patient, but I wish there had been someone in place like Jordan to come over and pick up the conversation, perhaps to steer me toward some California winemakers pushing new boundaries or styles, or even an unfairly maligned merlot that didn't cost a month's car payment.

I linger on the subject of wine when mulling over the restaurant's reach beyond the realms of Disney. For someone wanting a top-of-the-line night out in Orange County, I'd direct them first to Taco María or Knife Pleat, both in Costa Mesa. An alcove in the corner of Napa Rose's immense dining room exhibits awards for its wine program over the years; it's probably time to reinvest in the tenor of wine service if the accolades are to remain relevant.

But also, Napa Rose's one-foot-in-the-past vibes have me wondering about what's next. I saw the future in the kids scattered through the dining room in March, some of them wearing princess dresses. I remember my own young Disney dining moments, the tablecloths and the ornately arranged ingredients during the rare vacation splurges to which my parents treated me and my brother. I retain the feeling — the thrill of the ceremony — more than memories of the food.

That was 40 years ago when Americans had different relationships to dining out, before food moved to the center of popular culture. I ask myself what I hope these kids lucky enough to be eating at Napa Rose might remember. Certainly not some vague theme of "Wine Country cooking." What does that even mean? Tacos are as meaningful as tasting menus in the culinary landscapes of Napa and Sonoma. I'd want the flavors on their plates to tell them a story of California's cultural pluralities; I'd wish them an "aha" trace of cumin or cardamom or sansho that might make them curious about tastes they don't know, about the thrill of trying new things.

I left Napa Rose thinking about the sense of possibility inherent in Disney narratives. The restaurant's 25th anniversary will arrive in a few years, and Disney loves an occasion to celebrate — and also a savvy reinvention. The time is right for the resort's marquee dining destination to spin a fresher, broader and, yes, truer narrative of the moment in California dining, probably spelled out in a few less saucy squiggles.

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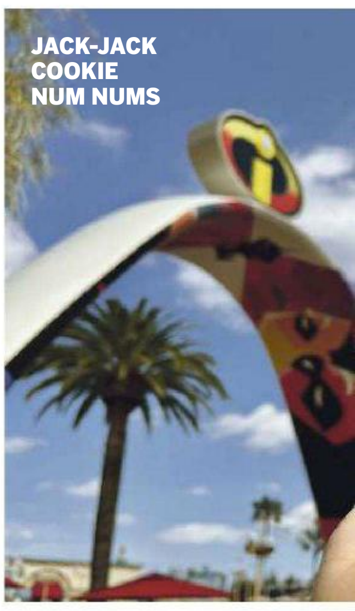

JACK-JACK COOKIE NUM NUMS

STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times

DOCKING BAY 7 FOOD AND CARGO

Everywhere you absolutely have to eat

FROM STANDS SERVING CLASSIC BITES LIKE TURKEY LEGS AND DOLE WHIP TO UPSCALE SIT-DOWN SPOTS

BY BILL ADDISON, STEPHANIE BREIJO, CINDY CARCAMO, DANIELLE DORSEY, BETTY HALLOCK, JENN HARRIS, LUCAS KWAN PETERSON AND AMY WONG

UPON ENTERING DISNEYLAND, you're greeted by a plaque that memorializes creator Walt Disney's words from its opening day: "Here you leave today and enter the world of yesterday, tomorrow and fantasy." ¶ Sixty-eight years later, Disney's wish for his Anaheim amusement park holds true. Stepping onto Main Street, U.S.A., you immediately forget the frustration of navigating traffic in the winding parking garage. Actors playing Mary Poppins and Bert skip down the street with umbrellas, and a polka-dot-clad Minnie Mouse exuberantly waves you over for a photo op. As you step through Sleeping Beauty's castle, you can't help feeling like the main character at the beginning of your own Disney fairy tale — full of hope and ready for adventure (and Dole Whip).

When it comes to food, you'll find options just as iconic and beloved as the rides. You'll also have to employ a similar strategy for beating the lines and securing snacks like mouse-ear beignets, turkey legs and corn dogs. Download the mobile Disneyland app to check ride wait times, make dining reservations or even order food to-go.

Walt Disney Co. is celebrating its centennial anniversary, but its theme parks are not stuck in the past. Innovation is balanced deftly alongside tradition, with lands like Toontown reopening and others, such as Pacific Wharf in Disney California Adventure, earning new identities — beginning summer 2023, the land will be transformed into the futuristic San Fransokyo from "Big Hero 6." The culinary programs across Disneyland and California Adventure employ a similar ethos, maintaining historic eateries once frequented by Walt Disney himself while introducing global cuisines to appeal to new audiences.

Not only is the food more diverse, but the menus at Disneyland restaurants are mindful of allergies and other food restrictions, with special menus available upon request. You'll find plenty of limited-edition food and drink specials.

These are some of the best spots for eating your way through Disneyland and California Adventure (find the rest at *latimes.com/disneylandresort*). *— Danielle Dorsey*

BLUE BAYOU

Pirates of the Caribbean was one of the final Disneyland rides overseen by Walt Disney, who died just months before it debuted in 1967. Disney had envisioned Blue Bayou within the attraction, a symbiosis in which diners softly lit in the themed courtyard of a Southern mansion and ride-goers floating by in boats added live scenery to the experience.

Blue Bayou's atmosphere is the main enticement (and, for Disney fans, reason enough to book a reservation); the food is fine. Its menu — salads with seasonal fruits and vegetables, filet Oscar-style with blue crab, fish of the day over garlic fried rice, a ragu made from roasted mushrooms over pasta with fava bean-pistachio pesto — leans far more broadly "New American" than Southern. The most regionally evocative dish surrounds roasted chicken with hunks of andouille sausage, roasted shrimp and a lightly spiced tomato "Creole" sauce. Servers here epitomize patience and graciousness. *— B.A.*

BOARDWALK PIZZA & PASTA

The price is right at California Adventure's quick-service Italian American restaurant, where sizable bowls of pasta, thick slices of pizza and piled-high salads all ring in around $11. The cafeteria-style setup calls for grabbing trays and heading to the stations of your choosing, but the pasta stand is far and away the winner. Actually good vegan meatballs serve as an example of some of Disney's better prepared plant-based items, while the five-cheese ravioli with toasted pine nuts, bruschetta and balsamic is one of the best meals I found anywhere in the parks. The pastas and the salads — spun to order and available in options such as chicken Caesar or an antipasti-inspired "Italian Chef" with salami, capocollo, fresh mozzarella, pepperoncini, olives and more — are solid. The shaded, tucked-away patio seating right off the boardwalk's busy thoroughfare makes this a great option for grabbing a bite. *— S.B.*

CAFE ORLEANS

A Disneyland dining mainstay since New Orleans Square debuted in 1966, Cafe Orleans is ideally situated for people-watching — a patio shaded with umbrellas comprises the majority of the seating — and for a centrally located meal. To stick with a Southern theme, order the respectable chicken and ham gumbo followed by a generous bowl of shrimp and grits. Most everyone, though, is here for the lightly battered, deep-fried Monte Cristo sandwich. The classic features slices of turkey, ham and Swiss cheese, dusted with powdered sugar and served with a seasonal jam (it's best when it's raspberry) and a side of crisp garlic-Parmesan fries or a small plain salad. A meatless variation melds mozzarella, Swiss and brie. It's nearly as delicious as the original; if you're with a group, consider ordering both to share and compare. *— B.A.*

CARTHAY CIRCLE RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

Referencing a Central L.A. neighborhood that's anchored by a tiny park, this fine-dining restaurant with a marquee sign is near the entrance of California Adventure. You'll need a reservation for dinner (make it in the days or weeks before your planned visit), but the lounge menu that's offered to walk-in guests in the plush living room or at the bar features casual versions of the most popular dishes.

Coffered ceilings, sparkling chandeliers and a winding array of dining rooms help maintain the illusion that you've stepped into the golden age of Hollywood. The international menu features roasted chicken meatballs served with pomegranate relish and tzatziki, filet skewers with Peruvian-style aji amarillo and handmade strozzapreti pasta that fills the restaurant with an inviting garlicky aroma. In this glamorous haunt, time seems to stand still. *— D.D.*

CHURRO CARTS

When I visit the parks, I like to start by indulging in a hot, freshly fried churro chased with coffee. You can find more than a dozen churro stands at several lands between both parks, usually at every major intersection. The fried dough coated in cinnamon and sugar not only satisfies the palate but is also one of the more affordable options, starting at $5 a pop. For those with an extra-sweet tooth, some churros come dressed in a variety of sauces and toppings — from lemon curd to peach cobbler. I prefer the original as long as it's fresh and hot. *— C.C.*

COCINA CUCAMONGA

Audience engagement editor Amy Wong tells me the QuesaBirria tacos at this Pacific Wharf restaurant are hot on TikTok, and I can see why. They're full of tender braised beef birria and cheese, served with a cup of hot consommé. While they may not measure up to your favorite stand in L.A., they're surprisingly good.

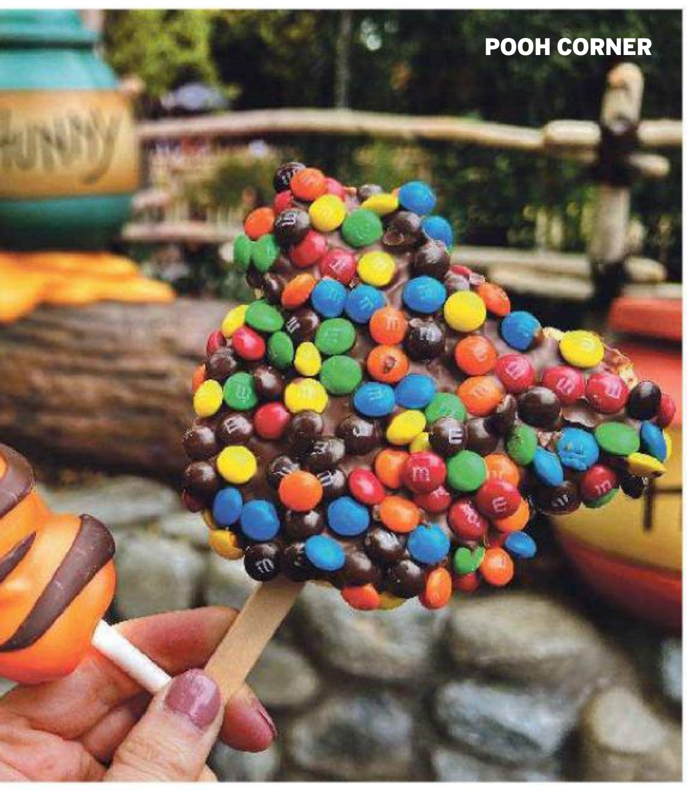
Other tacos are doubled up with thick, somewhat mealy tortillas, but the al pastor tacos are worth a flier. Tacos dorados de papa — fried potato tacos — are covered with a satisfying slaw and plant-based crema. Aside from the birria, these might be your best bet. *— L.K.P.*

CORN DOG CASTLE

Most corn dogs are decent, but every so often you find one that's in a category of its own. At California Adventure's medieval-themed corn dog stand, ye olde Corn Dog Castle, which offers classic corn dogs, a breakfast variety and a cheese-stick option, there's one variant far above the rest: The hot link corn dog reigns supreme. It's juicy, lightly spicy and features the kind of snap that proper sausages can offer. It's also a great deal: These kingly corn dogs are massive and lance-like, providing a full meal for roughly $10 (and they come with fruit or chips too). *— S.B.*

DOCKING BAY 7 FOOD AND CARGO

One of the most immersive restaurants in the parks, Docking Bay 7 Food and Cargo seats diners among the shipping crates, knickknacks and imports one might expect to find aboard a flying intergalactic food freighter. Fictional chef Strono "Cookie" Tuggs serves a menu that runs the cross-cultural, cross-species gamut inspired by his travels around the galaxy, which translates to quick-service items such as Endorian fried chicken with vegetable mash; Yobshrimp stew with swamp grains (a sort of curried jambalaya with shrimp, sausage, rice and vegetables); and the plant-based, mezze-inspired Felucian (Impossible) kefta balls with herbed hummus, pita and a cucumber-and-tomato relish. Nearly


POOH CORNER

Betty Hallock Los Angeles Times

PYM TEST KITCHEN

Stephanie Breijo Los Angeles Times

Amy Wong Los Angeles Times

CARTHAY CIRCLE RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

Stephanie Breijo Los Angeles Times

Dania Maxwell Los Angeles Times

RIVER BELLE TERRACE

Stephanie Breijo Los Angeles Times

everything on the menu here is a hit, as are drinks such as the cold brew topped with foamy sweet cream and crunchy chocolate orbs. Fuel up here before piloting the Falcon on the nearby Smugglers Run ride or infiltrating the First Order on Rise of the Resistance. — *S.B.*

FLO'S V8 CAFE

Lifting its inspiration from real diners along Route 66, Flo's V8 Cafe brings true neon-tinged Americana to Cars Land — along with a menu of classic diner hits. The toast of Carburetor County, this quick-service restaurant designed to look like a filling station serves generously portioned classics such as a piled-high club featuring thick slices of carved turkey breast with bacon and avocado-and-bacon mayo; a heaped Cobb salad; and milkshakes (with or without cookie-crumble "road gravel"). Perhaps the best and biggest surprise: notably good fried chicken with crunch and flavor similar to the Plaza Inn's most famous dish. Slide into a booth that resembles an upholstered car seat, dig the Motown music, and peek out the window for a view of the Radiator Springs Racers cars whizzing by as you dine. — *S.B.*

JACK-JACK COOKIE NUM NUMS

Hop off the Incredicoaster at Pixar Pier and you'll find this stand serving giant cookies fit for a superhero. The eponymous, hulking Jack-Jack Cookie Num Num is served warm and filled with gooey chocolate chunks. The $7.50 price may seem steep for one cookie, but it's big enough to share with a friend or two. If you're gluten-intolerant, you can opt for the Incredi-Cookie, a shortbread-like treat filled with blackberry jam. — *A.W.*

LUCKY FORTUNE COOKERY

The ramen at Lucky Fortune Cookery, a sort of pan-Asian-themed restaurant on Pacific Wharf, was a nice surprise — flavorful broth and great noodles with a satisfying bite. Be sure to spring for the extra toppings: a soft-boiled egg, sautéed mushrooms and a spicy miso paste. The Impossible banh mi sandwich is good, as is a beef bulgogi burrito that is slightly rice-heavy but has that distinct sweet, smoky taste of marinated meat from your favorite Korean barbecue place. Boba fans will want to check out the very decent black milk tea with sea salt cream. — *L.K.P.*

OGA'S CANTINA

Fans of the "Star Wars" universe spent decades longing for an IRL incarnation of Mos Eisley's seedy watering hole at the edge of the galaxy. Oga's Cantina, Batuu's own version found in Galaxy's Edge, is far and away less dangerous than the cantina we saw in "A New Hope," but it's still got some grime. Every so often the generator powering the bar will falter, causing lights to dim and the staff to grab hammers and beat the hyperdrive engine that keeps it all humming; and there's just the right patina of wear on the bubbling vats of colorful liquids behind the bar. The vibrant cocktails are the obvious draw, with concoctions like the peachy, vodka-soaked Fuzzy Tauntaun crowned by tingly foam or the tequila-lime-pomegranate Outer Rim, garnished with black salt; some come smoking, some come foaming, some arrive in commemorative glassware.

But the food here is surprisingly thoughtful: the kind of cuisine one might find in a gastropub in a galaxy far, far away. Full meals aren't available, but the snack portions are ample. The Batuu Wilds Bounty involves pastrami and whipped cheese garnished with pansy petals, mustard seed and curled wisps of cucumber alongside a loaf of bread for dipping, tearing and sharing, while the spiced Wroshyr pods (edamame and cucumber) come served with a citrus-and-gochujang dip, and the five-blossom bread is a plate of fluffy pretzel knots with cheese sauce. Give the resident droid DJ — R-3X — a nod hello while you're there. — *S.B.*

PLAZA INN

The fried chicken at the Plaza Inn reminds me of the excellent chicken at Dulan's Soul Food, a longtime Black-owned kitchen with locations in South L.A. The meat is juicy with a light, crisp, craggy coating. The vegetable side, like the penne pasta, is often overcooked. Order your chicken with a double side of mashed potatoes instead, with plenty of gravy to dip your chicken in. — *J.H.*

POOH CORNER

Critter Country is a low-key favorite territory, located on the farthest shores of the Rivers of America. Deep in Critter Country is Pooh Corner, a shop and bakery dedicated to A.A. Milne's beloved anthropomorphic teddy bear. In the back of the shop, confectioners dip Mickey Mouse-shaped Rice Krispies treats in chocolate and skewered marshmallows in caramel. Those marshmallows are the foundation for Tigger Tails, their texture somewhere between extra fluffy and gooey, dunked in caramel and orange-and-chocolate coating, meant to resemble the springy appendage of Pooh's stuffed-tiger bestie. Trays of them are slid into the bakery case. The cashier says, "These are orange-flavored, are you OK with that?" Yes, yes you are. The chocolate-peanut-butter sandwich is also highly recommended. As you exit the shop, get in line for a photo with Winnie-the-Pooh and Eeyore. — *B.H.*

PYM TEST KITCHEN

I haven't seen "Ant-Man," but my colleagues tell me this restaurant, found on the Avengers Campus, has something to do with that Paul Rudd vehicle, hilariously offering alternately teeny-tiny or super-sized versions of various foods. Let's start with breakfast: The Ever-Expanding Cinna-Pym Toast, while a little dry, has good flavor. Your best choice will be the non-meat option: the Impossible Quantum Garden Breakfast. A butter-pecan-flavored cold brew adds a shot of nutty, sweet creaminess to your morning caffeine.

Now let's get into lunch, where I had, if not the best-tasting dish of my time in the two parks, certainly the most delightful. The Compound Crustacean, a seafood salad of sorts, commits hard to the big-and-small joke of the restaurant. There are big, juicy head-on shrimp and small salad shrimp; sliced full-sized and smaller cherry tomatoes; quinoa and couscous. Nearly every item has a smaller version of itself somewhere in the dish. And it all works together surprisingly well.

The Not So Little Chicken Sandwich, with a large cutlet and comically small bun, is another good choice. And you'll probably see plenty Quantum Pretzels, a very large 1-pound version of the pastry. — *L.K.P.*

RIVER BELLE TERRACE

River Belle Terrace anchors Frontierland near the Rivers of America; you might see the Mark Twain Riverboat chug by if you select a seat on the gated patio with tasseled umbrellas. The interior of the restaurant feels like a grandmother's living room that hasn't been redecorated since at least the '80s. The comfort-driven menu might have been created by that same grandmother, including bites like corn-meal-coated catfish nuggets served with house tartar sauce, and pimento mac 'n' cheese with chunks of tender brisket topped with an herb crumble. The buttermilk fried chicken is the most popular sandwich option, a perfectly balanced combination with fried cherry peppers, cooling slaw and a tangy barbecue aioli, served with tater tots — the menu calls them "potato bites." This is a popular sit-down option; reservations are recommended. — *D.D.*

RONTO ROASTERS

You'll find Ronto Roasters as soon as you spot the behemoth hanging morsels of faux meat, some being turned by droids under an old ship engine to "cook" them. The quick-service food stand in Galaxy's Edge specializes in ronto wraps, but don't worry, you're not eating flatbreads filled with Tatooine's ridable pack animals — here, the ronto is pork in both sausage and roasted form, and it's executed well. The standard ronto wrap includes sliced pork, peppercorn sauce, slaw and the snappy, thin signature sausage — which also can be found in a breakfast version with eggs and cheddar — but the rotating ronto-less options, one of which swaps pork for an Impossible-based sausage, are even more flavorful and add sauces and spices such as tahini, gochujang and chickpea slaw. — *S.B.*

ROYAL STREET VERANDA

If this New Orleans Square quick-service pit stop with outdoor-only seating is on your Disneyland checklist, it's likely for the Mickey-shaped beignets. A fresh batch can be luck-of-the-draw: In most cases, the beignets have already been fried, powdered with sugar and placed in paper bags under a heat lamp. Eat the first one immediately for maximum enjoyment and save the other two for Instagram shots. The other main menu item here — steak or vegetable "gumbo" in a sourdough bowl — tastes more like a generic thickened stew than the canonical dish of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole cuisines. — *B.A.*

SHAWARMA PALACE

There are three varieties of flatbread wraps at Shawarma Palace, a small stand in the Avengers Campus. I'd pass on the breakfast wrap with a somewhat odd, spiced maple syrup, but the other two — falafel and chicken — are good for a quick snack. Make sure to get plenty of the tzatziki-like coconut-yogurt tahini sauce to spread on whatever option you choose. — *L.K.P.*

TIKI JUICE BAR & DOLE WHIP

The menu at the Tiki Juice Bar is extremely simple: Dole Whip, pineapple juice, Dole Whip float (and bottled water, I suppose, but I'm not counting that). I love the tangy, fruity Dole Whip float — pineapple-flavored soft serve swimming in pineapple juice. At the nearby Tropical Hideaway, you can get this treat in two additional flavors, strawberry and mango, but this is the place to go if you know what you want and don't want to deal with the line there. Place your mobile order, get in and out and enjoy what is, for me at least, the best thing at Disneyland. — *L.K.P.*

TROUBADOUR TAVERN

The Troubadour Tavern in Fantasyland, where you might expect a medieval-slash-Oktoberfest motif, has been serving a special "Lion King"-themed menu since last year: items like Hakuna Matata sweets and a Simba-shaped bucket with berbere-spiced popcorn. I found this place to have some of the better dishes in the park.

The chermoula chicken and rice, with a tangy, spiced sauce and crispy kale bits, is a fantastic break from the park's deep-fried or super-sweet treats. The reliable loaded baked potato, with bacon bits, sour cream and chives, is a decent bang-for-your-buck deal. — *L.K.P.*

TURKEY LEG CARTS

I am not the biggest fan of these things, but I do see their appeal; they're fairly sui generis as far as theme park foods go. Where else can you chow down on a piece of meat as big as a bodybuilder's forearm? Where else is that not only appropriate but expected?

There are at least four places between Disneyland and California Adventure to get turkey legs, and I tried three of them. They were all much the same, except that Edelweiss Snacks in Fantasyland had a flavored turkey leg — Buffalo — that I liked better than the normal version. The drenching of the leg in a mild Buffalo sauce not only kept it moist (at their driest, these can resemble a mummified body part) but also cut the sodium slightly.

You probably won't finish one of these things without help. But you can, like our audience engagement editor Amy Wong, wrap it up and take it home and give it to your mom, who will make a pot of delicious, smoky jook from it. — *L.K.P.*

For more information about specific food and drink establishments at Disneyland Resort, visit disneyland.disney.go .com/dining/disneyland

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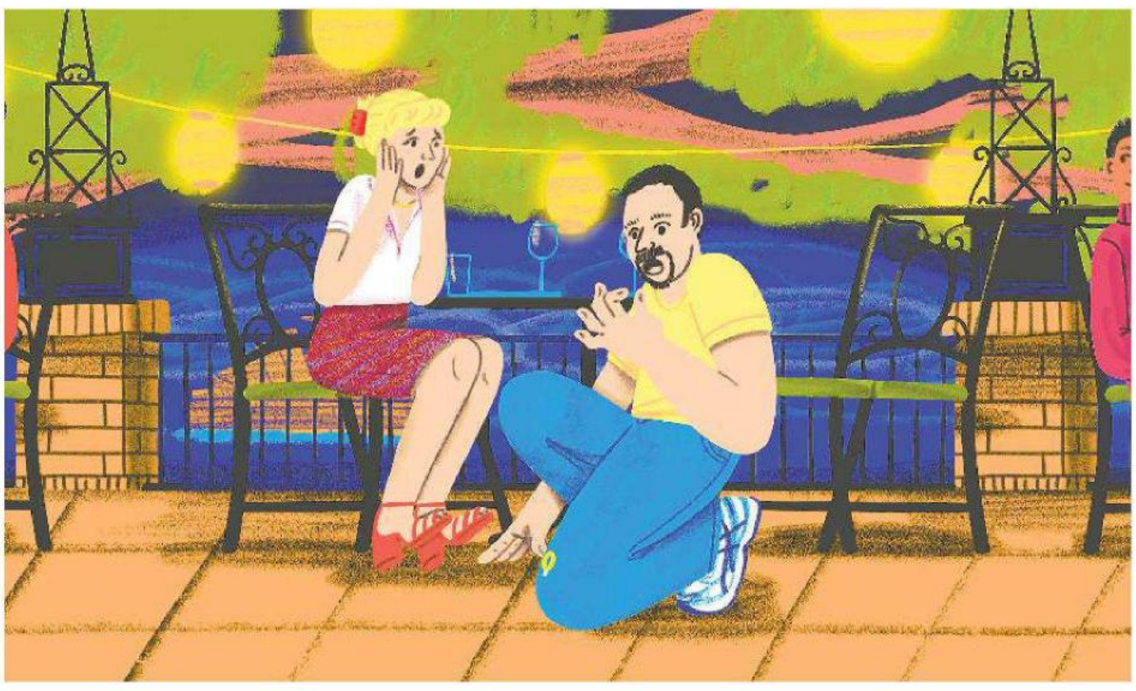

Viktoria Cichoń For The Times

L.A. AFFAIRS

PLOTTING A PERFECT DISNEY PROPOSAL

CLASSY, AT BLUE BAYOU, OR SPLASHY, ON A WATER RIDE?

BY JOE MCCARTHY

I INVITED my then-girlfriend to spend the day with me at the Happiest Place on Earth, one of her absolute favorite things to do. What she didn't know was that I had purchased an engagement ring and received her father's blessing. In my mind, our day at Disneyland was going to be an epic memory and a defining milestone in our lives. And it was. It just wasn't quite the way I Imagineered it!

Libby and I couldn't have asked for a more quintessential spring day in Southern California, with a vibrant electric blue sky and cozy warm sunshine. After posing for a photo in front of the welcome garden and then skipping hand in hand through the tunnel to Main Street, U.S.A., Libby asked if we could stop at guest services to renew her annual pass. Much to her surprise, I decided to get one too. She was (and still is) a Disneyland super fan, but it was only my second time in the theme park.

Meanwhile, a small platinum circle of precious stones was quietly burning a hole in the coin pocket of my jeans.

"Be cool," I kept whispering to myself, summoning an Oscar-worthy performance to keep from prematurely giving away my life-altering surprise.

Libby and I attempted to make dinner reservations at the Blue Bayou restaurant, but it was already booked up. (There went Plan A!) "Try walking in around 30 minutes before they close," we were told. "Sometimes they squeeze in a few extra people as tables are freeing up from the final group of reserved guests."

As we joyously flitted from one attraction to the next, I was surreptitiously scanning for the best place to pop the big question. Then it came to me: Splash Mountain! In my mind, it would be the perfect setting to ask the love of my life to "take the plunge!" (The ride, which opened in 1989 at Disneyland, will close on May 30.)

I don't know exactly how long the wait line was (FastPass and the Disney Genie+ service hadn't yet been introduced), but it felt like an eternity between each step. As we inched closer to the boarding area, I kept rehearsing my proposal in my head: "Libby, life can be like this ride — ups and downs, moments of bright sunshine and dark caves, Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah days and briar patches, fun stretches and scary surprises. But no matter what life brings, let's always ride *together*. Will you marry me?"

We finally snuggled into our section of the giant log and surged ahead. Here we go! But every time I attempted to launch into my proposal, Libby would interrupt with a gleeful "Look!" or "How cute!" or "Sing along, honey!" or "Hey there, Br'er Bear!"

About the third time I restarted my eloquent spiel, she said, "Why so serious? Enjoy the ride, honey." I took that as a cue to leave the ring in my pocket and wait for better timing. (In hindsight, it's a good thing I didn't attempt to pull the ring out while on the ride — a log flume ride at that. If I had, it's quite likely that her engagement ring would have ended up somewhere like the bottom of the Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage tank!)

With Plans A and B foiled, I started to wonder if this day was going to be *the day* after all.

Per the advice we had received earlier, we made our way to the Blue Bayou a half-hour before the restaurant was scheduled to close. My heart raced as I approached the host, still trying to maintain a calm, cool, confident façade.

My wish was granted. Thankfully, perhaps divinely, the host was able to seat us at a cozy table in the corner near the water, under a huge mossy tree, complete with magical Disney fireflies flickering nearby.

I could not have arranged a more perfect setting. We enjoyed a romantic dinner as a slow parade of boats from the Pirates of Caribbean floated by in the distance. The restaurant started to empty out as other guests finished up before us, creating an unexpected window of privacy.

Between dinner and dessert, I mustered all my courage, got down on one knee in front of Libby's chair and slipped the ring out of my coin pocket. But as I lifted it up to present it to her, it caught the edge of the table and dropped from my trembling fingers — and in a split second, her ring disappeared into the shadows.

I panicked momentarily but quickly regained my breath as my eyes caught a glint of light and I discovered the ring had landed safely on my thigh, just above my bent knee. Gulp! (Super big gulp!)

My heart and mind were rather blurry — as were hers. All eloquence gone, I started to stammer something semi-intelligible (which neither of us can remember). With her face aglow and eyes welling up with tears, she joyously jumped in and rescued me from myself, interjecting with a resounding "Yes!"

We exited the Blue Bayou just as Fantasmic!, the nightly live-action multimedia show featuring Mickey Mouse and friends, was about to begin on the Rivers of America in front of Tom Sawyer Island.

Although an enormous crowd had gathered, somehow a spot big enough for the two of us happened to open up right at the rail on the bridge over the line to Pirates of the Caribbean. It was an ideal vantage point.

As I love to say, right after we got engaged, tens of thousands of people from all over the world cheered, fireworks exploded, epic music filled the air and goodness triumphed over evil. It was as if we were living in a personal fairy tale that picture-perfect May night in 1998.

Libby and I entered Disneyland that day as girlfriend and boyfriend, but we left as an engaged couple. We got married later that year and we've been together ever since, living our very own happily ever after.

> *The author is a professional public speaker, marketing/communications specialist, content creator, leadership development consultant and podcast host. He and his wife live in Orange County, where they are raising their two daughters. Find him online at mojoe.studio.*

L.A. Affairs chronicles the search for romantic love in all its glorious expressions in the L.A. area, and we want to hear your true story. We pay $300 for a published essay. Email LAAffairs@latimes.com. You can find past columns at latimes.com/laaffairs.

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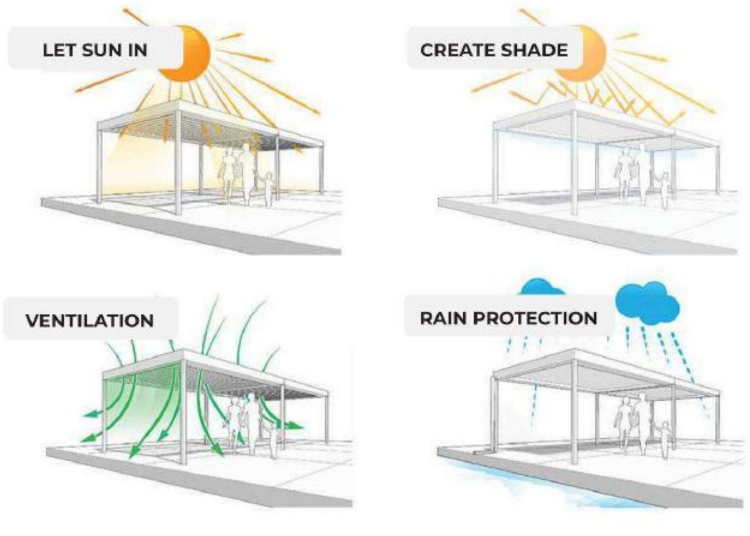

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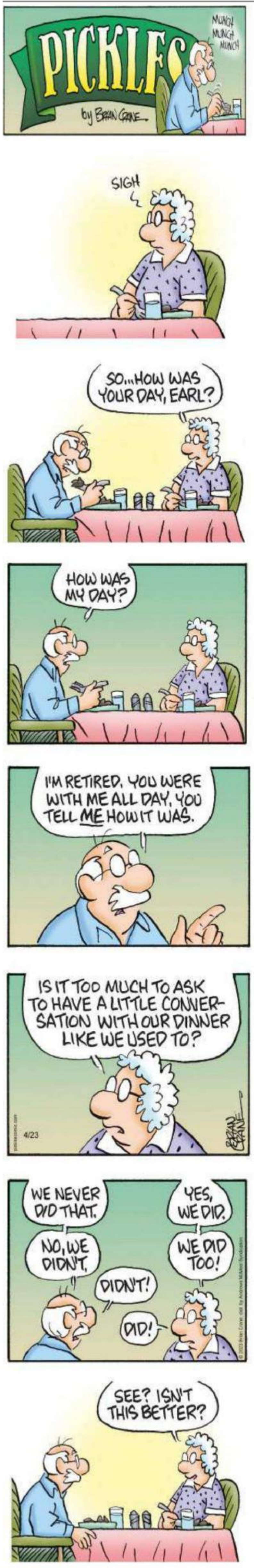
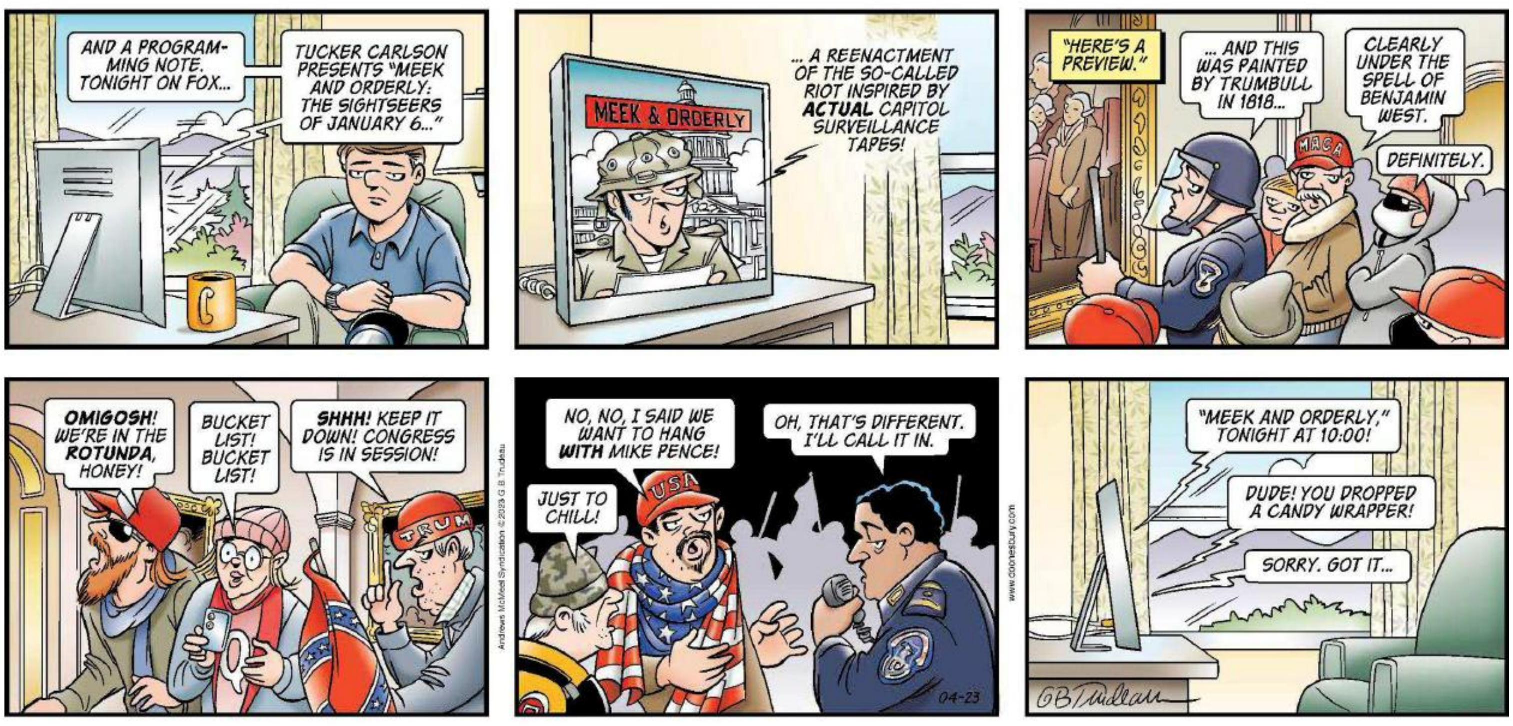
SUNDAY COMICS

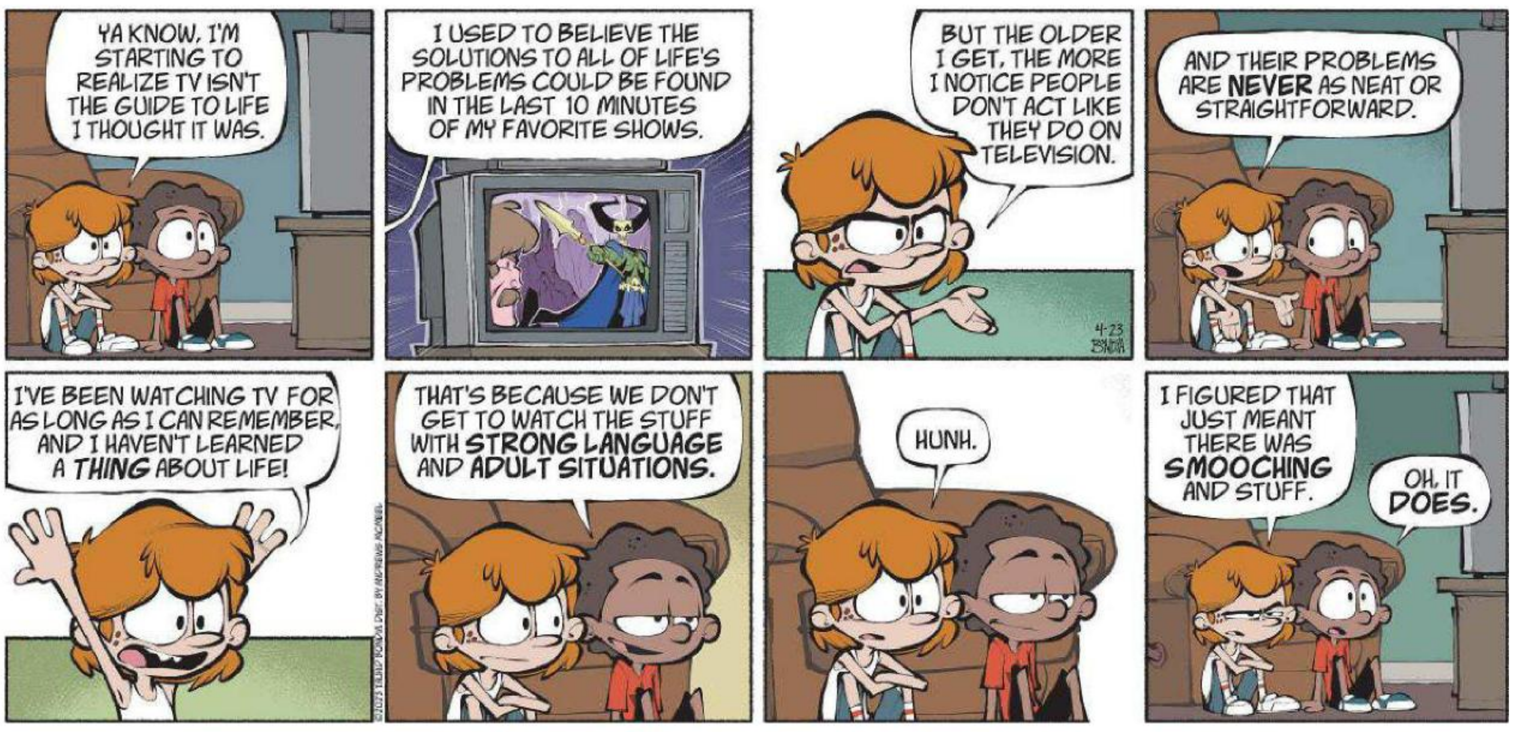
Los Angeles Times
APRIL 23, 2023


PICKLES
by Brian Crane
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
SIGH
SO...HOW WAS YOUR DAY, EARL?
HOW WAS MY DAY?
I'M RETIRED. YOU WERE WITH ME ALL DAY. YOU TELL ME HOW IT WAS.
IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK TO HAVE A LITTLE CONVERSATION WITH OUR DINNER LIKE WE USED TO?
4/23
BRIAN CRANE
WE NEVER DID THAT.
YES, WE DID.
NO, WE DIDN'T.
WE DID TOO!
DIDN'T!
DID!
SEE? ISN'T THIS BETTER?

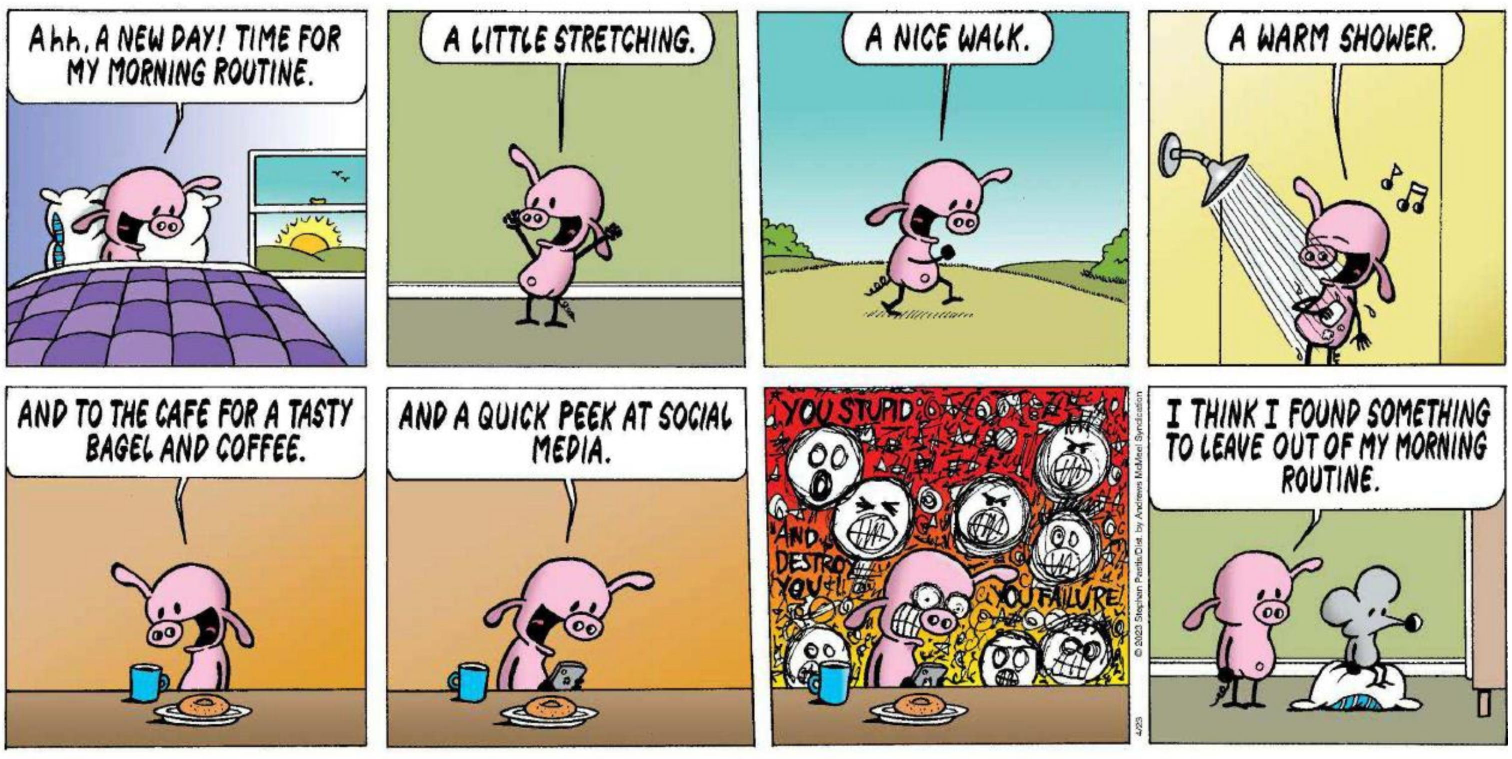
DOONESBURY By Garry Trudeau

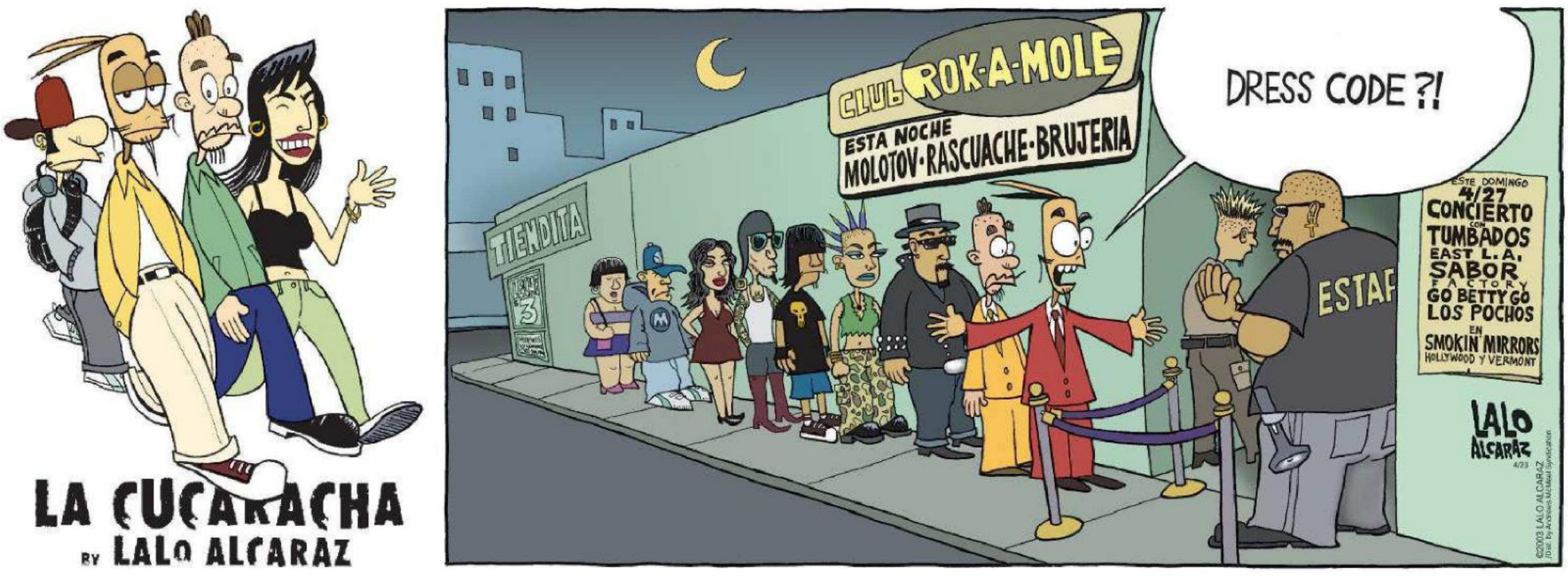

AND A PROGRAMMING NOTE. TONIGHT ON FOX...
TUCKER CARLSON PRESENTS "MEEK AND ORDERLY: THE SIGHTSEERS OF JANUARY 6..."
MEEK & ORDERLY
... A REENACTMENT OF THE SO-CALLED RIOT INSPIRED BY ACTUAL CAPITOL SURVEILLANCE TAPES!
"HERE'S A PREVIEW."
... AND THIS WAS PAINTED BY TRUMBULL IN 1818...
CLEARLY UNDER THE SPELL OF BENJAMIN WEST.
MAGA
DEFINITELY.
OMIGOSH! WE'RE IN THE ROTUNDA, HONEY!
BUCKET LIST! BUCKET LIST!
SHHH! KEEP IT DOWN! CONGRESS IS IN SESSION!
TRUM
Andrews McMeel Syndication © 2023 G.B. Trudeau
NO, NO, I SAID WE WANT TO HANG WITH MIKE PENCE!
USA
JUST TO CHILL!
OH, THAT'S DIFFERENT. I'LL CALL IT IN.
04-23
www.doonesbury.com
"MEEK AND ORDERLY," TONIGHT AT 10:00!
DUDE! YOU DROPPED A CANDY WRAPPER!
SORRY. GOT IT...
GBTrudeau

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


YA KNOW, I'M STARTING TO REALIZE TV ISN'T THE GUIDE TO LIFE I THOUGHT IT WAS.
I USED TO BELIEVE THE SOLUTIONS TO ALL OF LIFE'S PROBLEMS COULD BE FOUND IN THE LAST 10 MINUTES OF MY FAVORITE SHOWS.
BUT THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE I NOTICE PEOPLE DON'T ACT LIKE THEY DO ON TELEVISION.
4-23
BONDIA
AND THEIR PROBLEMS ARE NEVER AS NEAT OR STRAIGHTFORWARD.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING TV FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, AND I HAVEN'T LEARNED A THING ABOUT LIFE!
©2023 TAUHID BONDIA DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL
THAT'S BECAUSE WE DON'T GET TO WATCH THE STUFF WITH STRONG LANGUAGE AND ADULT SITUATIONS.
HUNH.
I FIGURED THAT JUST MEANT THERE WAS SMOOCHING AND STUFF.
OH, IT DOES.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


Ahh, A NEW DAY! TIME FOR MY MORNING ROUTINE.
A LITTLE STRETCHING.
A NICE WALK.
A WARM SHOWER.
AND TO THE CAFE FOR A TASTY BAGEL AND COFFEE.
AND A QUICK PEEK AT SOCIAL MEDIA.
YOU STUPID
AND DESTROY YOU
YOU FAILURE!
© 2023 Stephan Pastis/Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
4/23
I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING TO LEAVE OUT OF MY MORNING ROUTINE.


LA CUCARACHA
by LALO ALCARAZ
CLUB ROK-A-MOLE
ESTA NOCHE
MOLOTOV · RASCUACHE · BRUJERIA
TIENDITA
3
DRESS CODE ?!
ESTAF
ESTE DOMINGO
4/27
CONCIERTO
CON
TUMBADOS
EAST L.A.
SABOR FACTORY
GO BETTY GO
LOS POCHOS
EN
SMOKIN' MIRRORS
HOLLYWOOD Y VERMONT
LALO ALCARAZ
4/23
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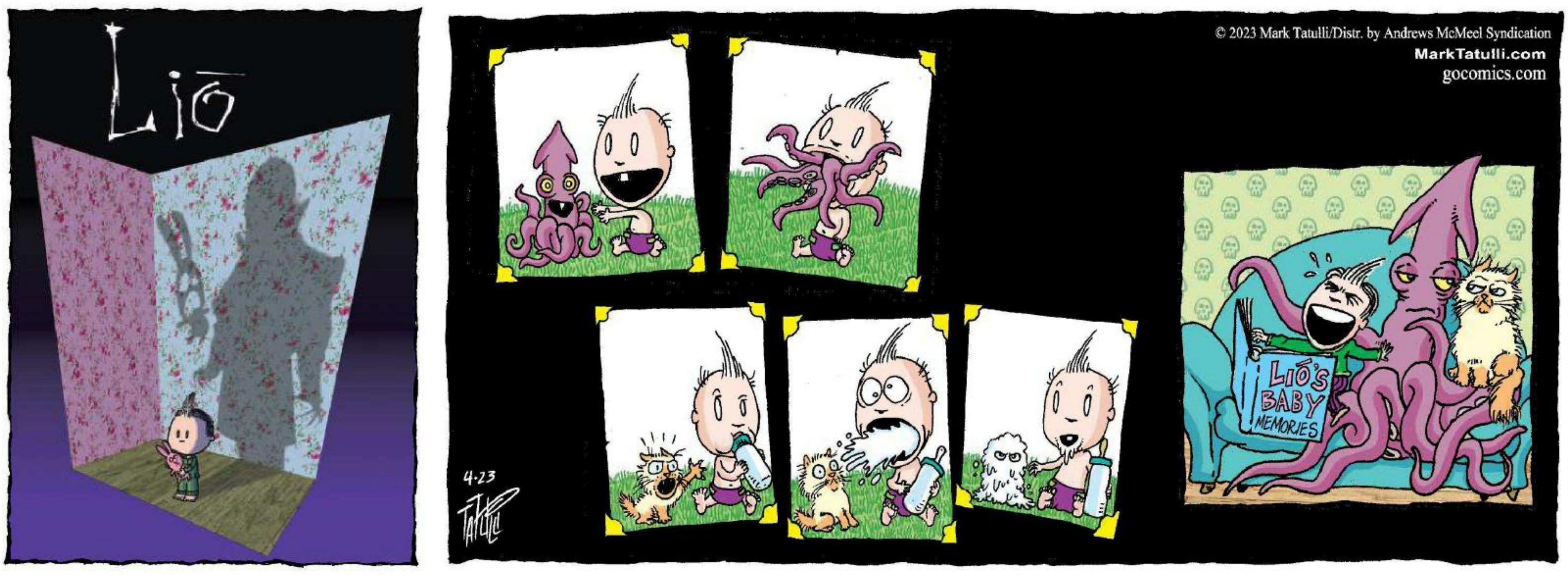
Lio
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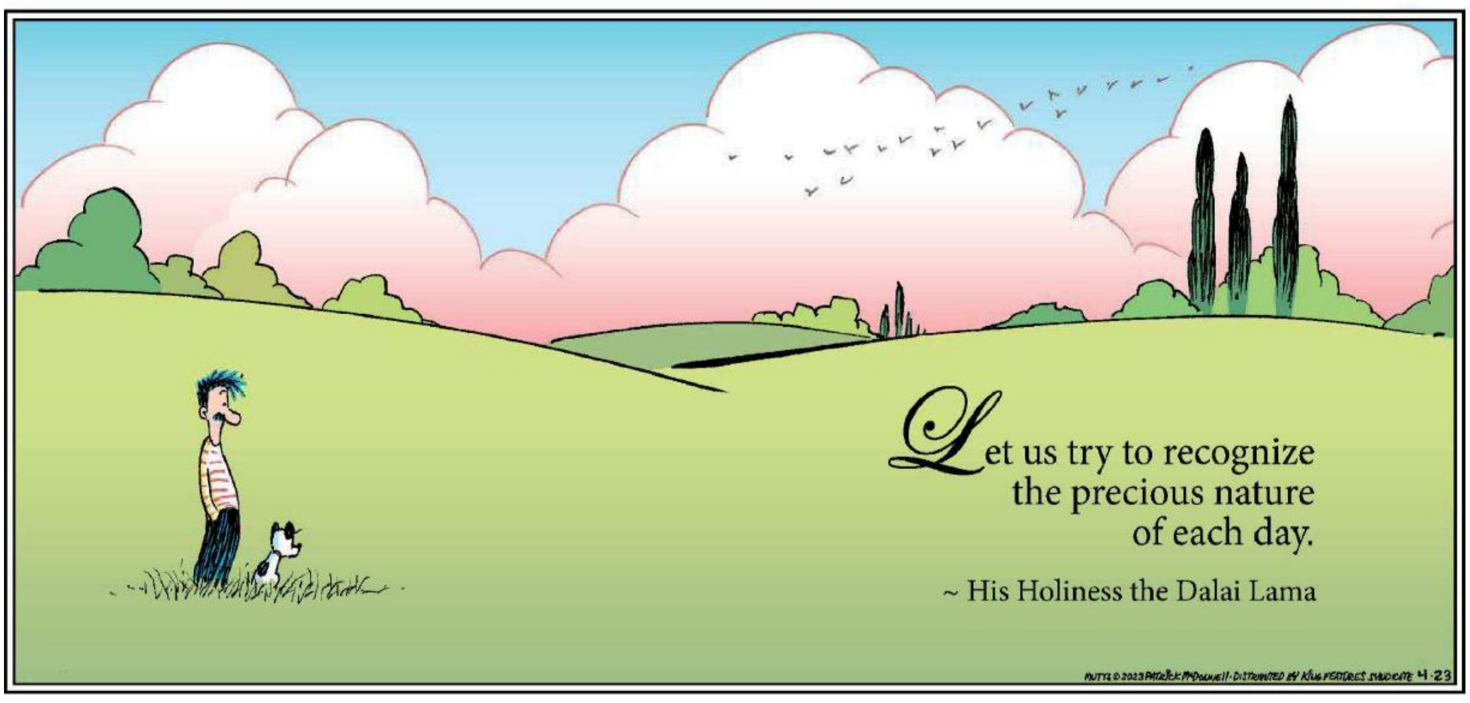
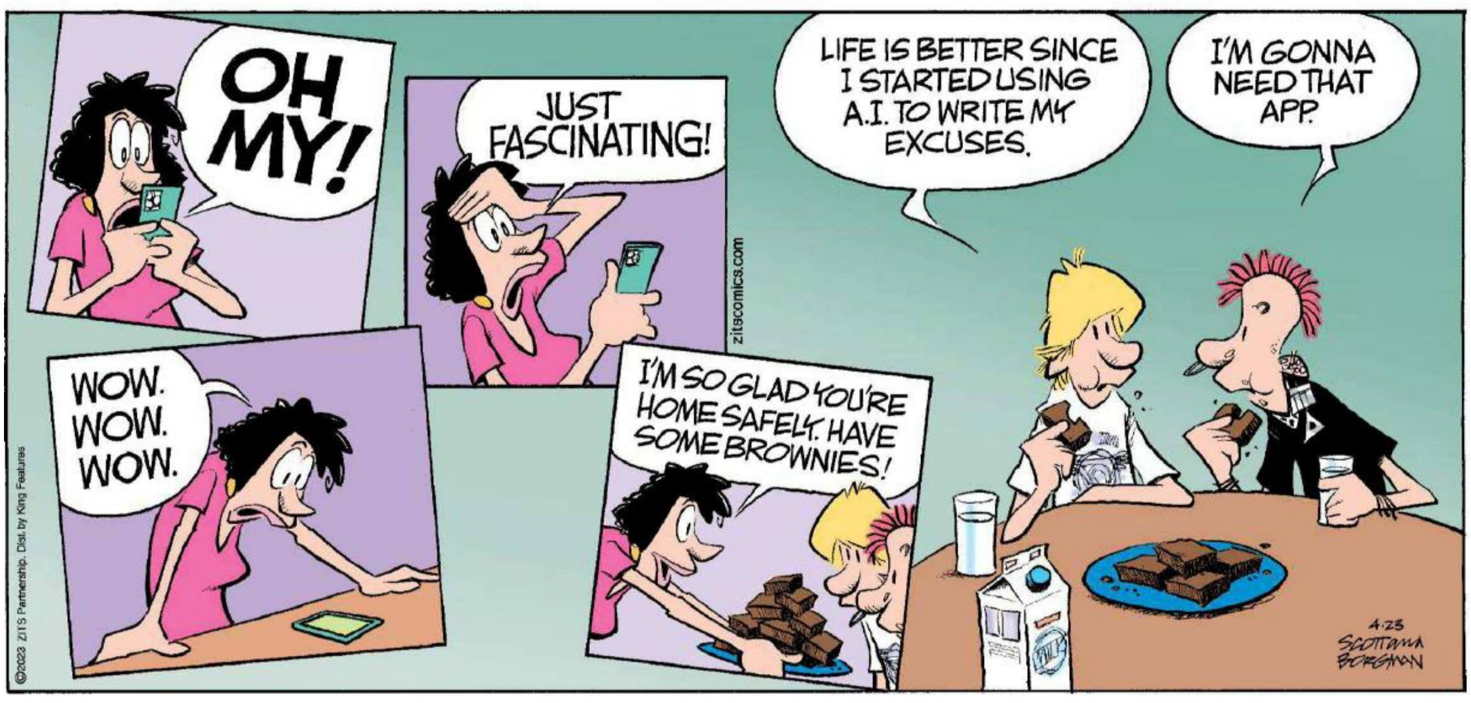
LIO'S BABY MEMORIES
4-23
TATULLI

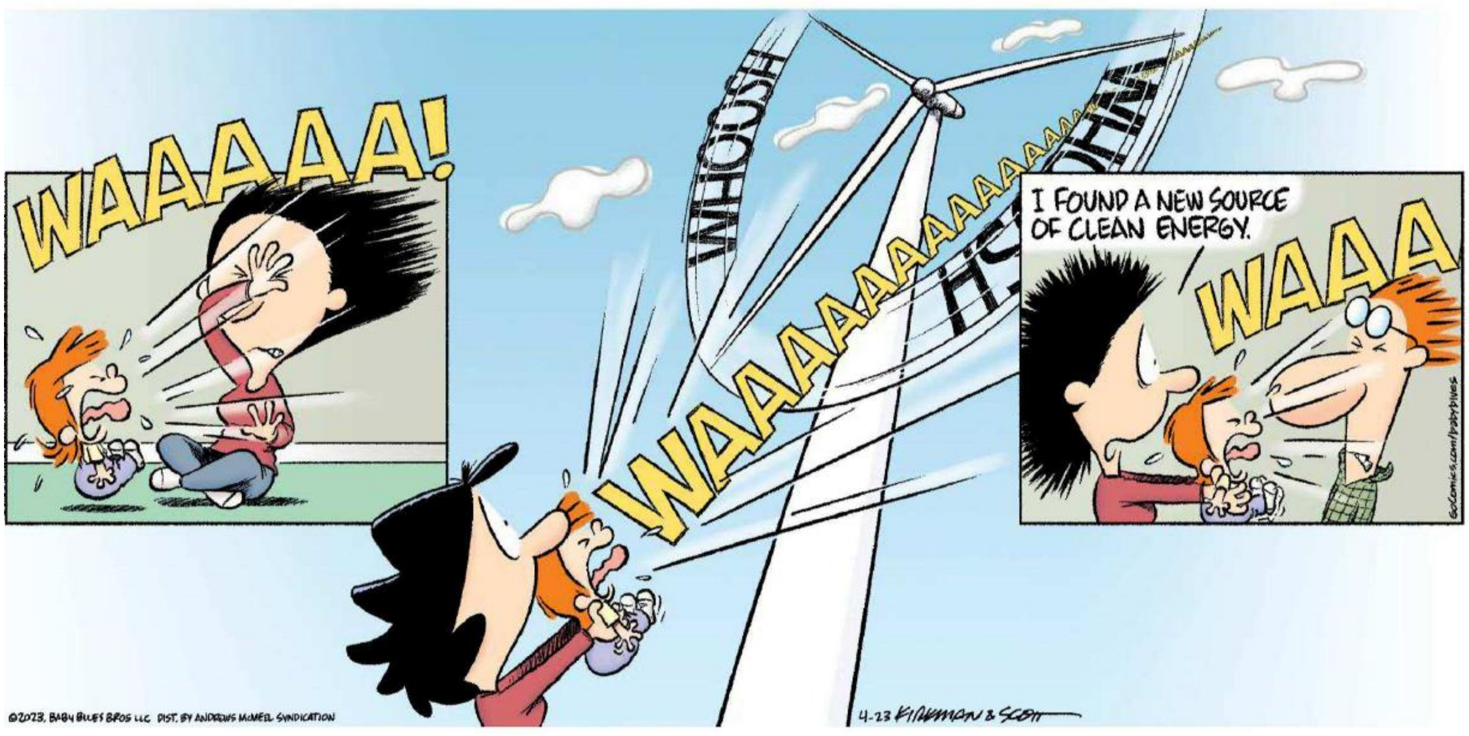
MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell


Let us try to recognize
the precious nature
of each day.
~ His Holiness the Dalai Lama
MUTTS © 2023 PATRICK McDONNELL · DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE 4·23

ZITS By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman


OH MY!
JUST FASCINATING!
WOW. WOW. WOW.
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HOME SAFELY. HAVE SOME BROWNIES!
LIFE IS BETTER SINCE I STARTED USING A.I. TO WRITE MY EXCUSES.
I'M GONNA NEED THAT APP.
zitscomics.com
©2023 ZITS Partnership. Dist. by King Features
4·23 SCOTTAMA BORGMAN

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott


WAAAAAA!
WHOOSH
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
I FOUND A NEW SOURCE OF CLEAN ENERGY.
WAAA
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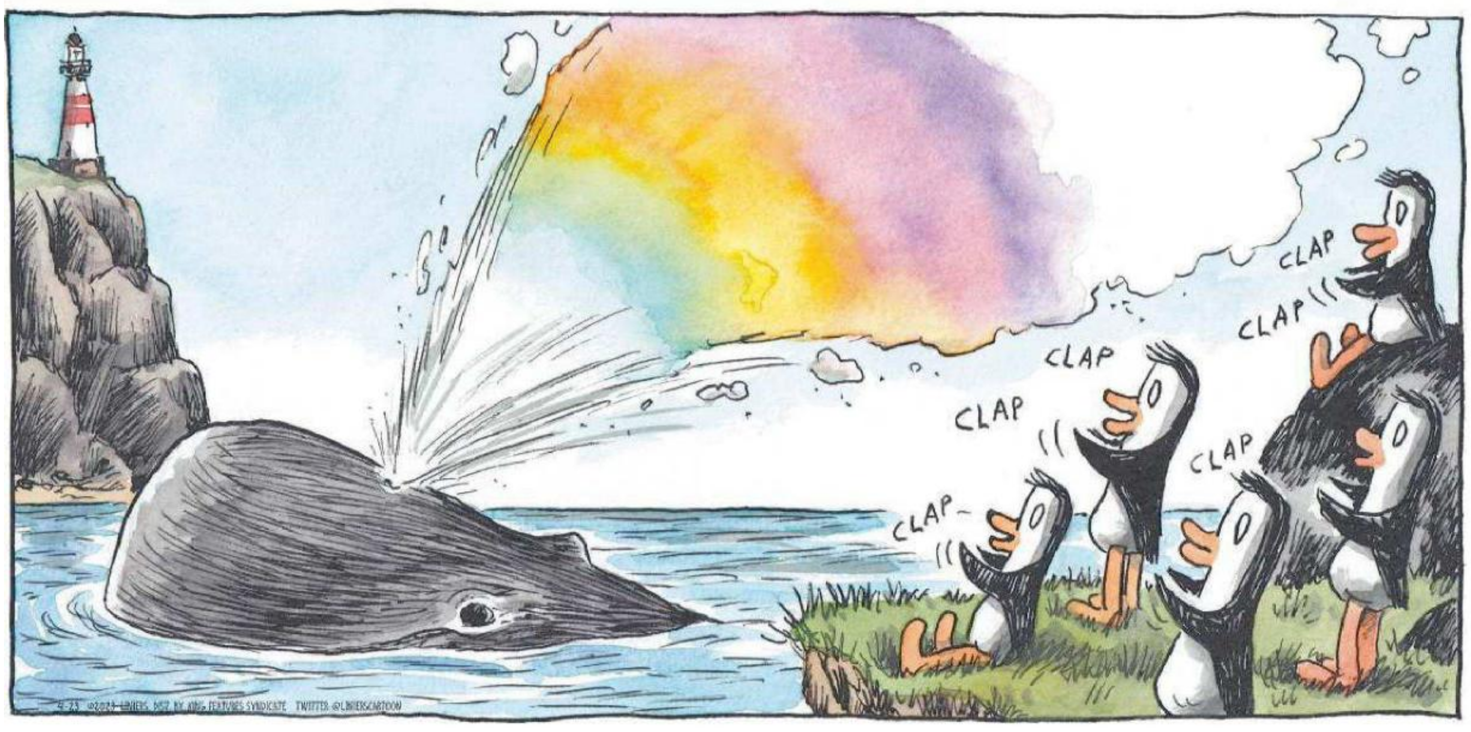
©2023, BABY BLUES BROS LLC DIST. BY ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION
4-23 KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MACANUDO By Liniers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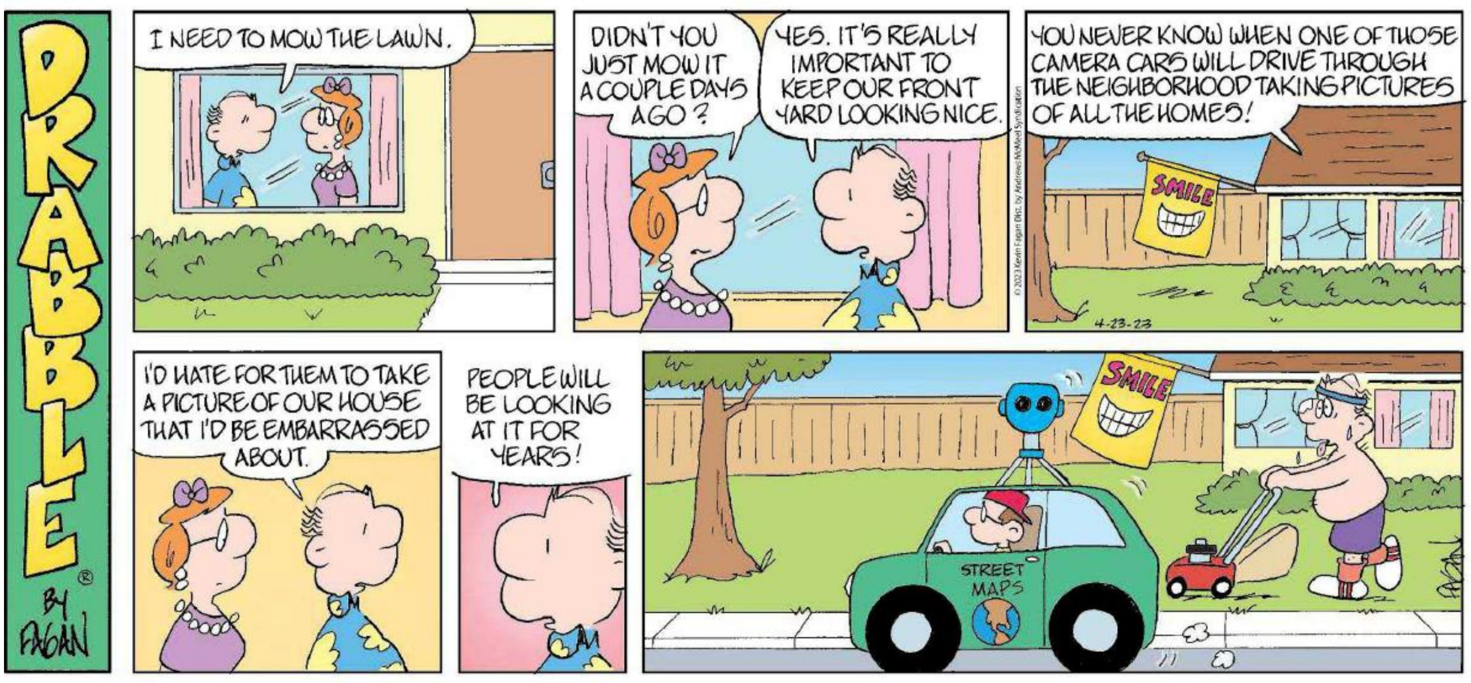
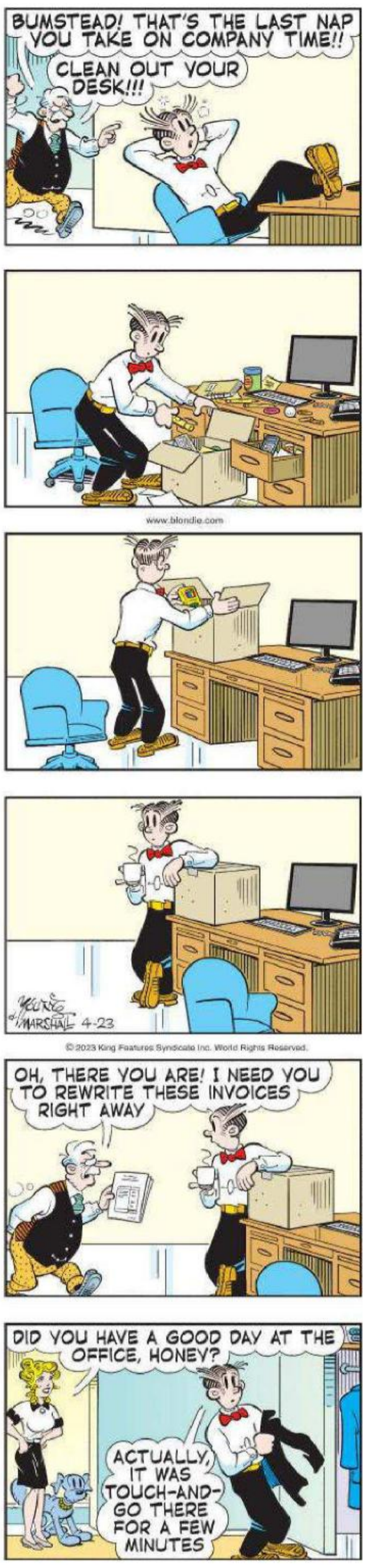
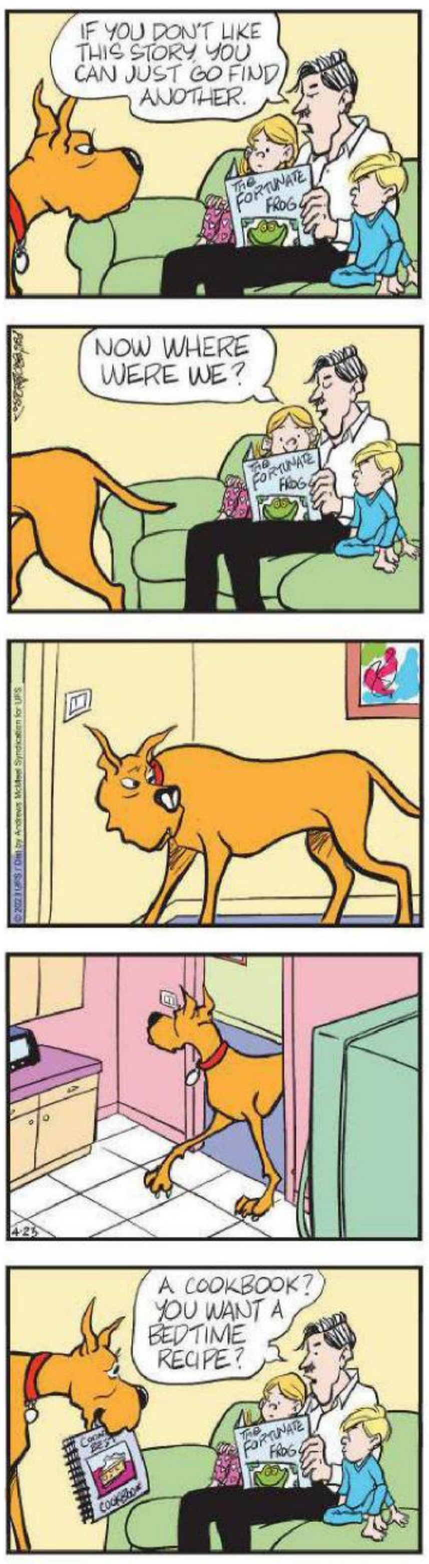

DRABBLE® BY FAGAN
I NEED TO MOW THE LAWN.
DIDN'T YOU JUST MOW IT A COUPLE DAYS AGO?
YES. IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO KEEP OUR FRONT YARD LOOKING NICE.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN ONE OF THOSE CAMERA CARS WILL DRIVE THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD TAKING PICTURES OF ALL THE HOMES!
SMILE
© 2023 Kevin Fagan Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
4-23-23
I'D HATE FOR THEM TO TAKE A PICTURE OF OUR HOUSE THAT I'D BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT.
PEOPLE WILL BE LOOKING AT IT FOR YEARS!
SMILE
STREET MAPS

BLONDIE
By Dean Young
& John Marshall


BUMSTEAD! THAT'S THE LAST NAP YOU TAKE ON COMPANY TIME!!
CLEAN OUT YOUR DESK!!!
www.blondie.com
YOUNG MARSHALL 4-23
© 2023 King Features Syndicate Inc. World Rights Reserved.
OH, THERE YOU ARE! I NEED YOU TO REWRITE THESE INVOICES RIGHT AWAY
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY AT THE OFFICE, HONEY?
ACTUALLY, IT WAS TOUCH-AND-GO THERE FOR A FEW MINUTES

MARMADUKE
By Brad & Paul Anderson


IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS STORY YOU CAN JUST GO FIND ANOTHER.
THE FORTUNATE FROG
NOW WHERE WERE WE?
THE FORTUNATE FROG
4-23
A COOKBOOK? YOU WANT A BEDTIME RECIPE?
COOKBOOK
THE FORTUNATE FROG

DOG GONE FUNNY MCCORDSVILLE, IN

SUSAN AND JERRY DUNN'S WEIMARANER, **LIESL**, LETS HER FAMILY KNOW HOW TO STAY **SAFE**. WHENEVER THERE IS A REALLY BAD **THUNDERSTORM**, LIESL DOESN'T WAIT FOR A TORNADO WARNING. LIESL HEADS FOR THE BATHROOM AND GETS IN THE **BATHTUB**!

HOROSCOPE

HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): Ambitions sizzle in your belly, but somehow your attitude is still laid-back.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You'll spend time thinking about how you might accommodate others and you'll also take a deep dive into your own preferences and wishes.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Don't worry about the right words or knowing the appropriate thing to say in every situation. You come at people with your heart open.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Keep adding to your arsenal of favorite things, as these are soul-soothing tools that will keep you centered when life brings you challenges.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): In a healthy group, the burdens and blessings of any individual become a part of the collective. Hard things, work and celebration should feel easier together.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Avoid those who lead your focus to the negative. They are draining to be around, and you're better off on your own.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): The simpler your purpose, the more successful you'll be. Effectiveness boils down to knowing your purpose.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You'll set reasonable expectations knowing that every relationship has peaks and valleys. In some relationships, the high point is the relief you feel after the fact.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): No one can know everything, and those who pretend they do only annoy the others. You'll enjoy finding answers with a fellow curious mind.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): People say, "forgive and forget," but what happens more often is, "move on from something you vividly recall." The important thing is not to repeat mistakes.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You were doing your best, and now the stakes have changed. You'll figure out the skills to make you competitive with those you admire and then surpass the competition.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Your interests have shifted throughout your life and will continue to do so. You're easy with it all today, allowing yourself the leeway to explore.

Today's birthday (April 23): It's your year for making spectacular impressions. You decide what effect you'd like to have, and you stick the landing. Love puts a glowing filter on your lens of the world. What's more surprising is the enchanting experiences that come through work. More highlights: A certificate that gives you bragging rights and the modesty not to exercise them, and smooth transportation to far-off places. Scorpio and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers: 1, 44, 38, 9 and 20.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

"In the End"

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

BY GARRETT CHALFIN

ACROSS

1 2006 NBA Finals MVP Dwyane
5 Wiccans, Druids, etc.
11 Start of an idea
15 Soaks (up)
19 "I wasn't finished!"
20 Greetings
21 Old music halls
22 Atmosphere
23 Exclamation at a Chinese New Year parade?
25 Homemade cat costume?
27 Sammie
28 Ilhan of Congress
29 Lunch spot, for short
30 Spoke without a sound?
31 Crime drama character
33 Buffalo NHL player
35 Pixar fish
36 Chocolate chips and walnuts for banana bread, perhaps
37 Very soon after
39 Steamed bun
40 Sound from a pen
41 Untamed
42 Havana cigar that hits all the right notes?
45 Motivation
47 Bathroom or kitchen device
48 BTS genre
49 Schoolyard retort
50 Old den device
53 "— Miz"
56 [I have to explain this again?]
58 —-chic
59 Like a rave review
63 Mario Kart participant
64 Euripides tragedy
65 Evian, e.g.?
67 To whom a young sea monster goes for advice?
69 Affirms
70 Morgan of Arthurian legend
72 "You'll see—this'll be easy!"
73 Barber's tool
74 Fizzless drink
76 Early Beatles bassist Sutcliffe
77 Hosp. theaters
78 CBS sportscaster Phil
79 Camper's snack
81 Charter
86 Songs
87 Unusually low tax bill?
90 Family nickname
91 Biceps, slangily
92 Melber of MSNBC
93 Urge on
94 Whine tearfully
96 "Sula" novelist Morrison
97 Viswanathan who was the first chess grandmaster from India
99 Texting nicety
100 Clemson athletes
101 Fix, in a way
102 Disdainful sounds
103 Trawling need
105 So tired of eating pork for breakfast?
107 Observation at a zoo's big cat exhibit?
111 Drudge
112 Swag
113 Had a victory
114 Unaided
115 Avec's opposite
116 Giant fair
117 Sunset shade
118 Freshly

DOWN

1 URL letters
2 "That hits the spot"
3 Scattered population
4 "Julius Caesar" accusation
5 Prof's deg., often
6 Stunt pilot
7 Campy 1970s music genre
8 Sushi roll exterior
9 Former Queen of Jordan
10 Tax form digits
11 Stop posting on social media, say
12 Enlighten
13 "Summertime Sadness" singer Lana Del —
14 Words said after lighting birthday candles
15 Went unused
16 Eclipsed
17 Groom feathers
18 Smooths, as wood
24 Crunch time target?
26 "Amor & Pasión" popera vocal group
29 Hartford's st.
31 Beer pong receptacles
32 Gp. founded in Baghdad in 1960
34 "The Bachelor" network
35 Luvs product
38 Org. for Cardinals and Saints
40 Concert wind
43 Fishers with pots
44 Kite aids
45 Least rainy
46 Go back
49 Pictures of characters
50 Cape Cod alcohol
51 Sound from a nest
52 Equine hue
54 NYC hrs.
55 Jojo Moyes novel about a woman starting a new life
57 Furry foot
58 Lima —
59 Party gift
60 Inventory list
61 Move or groove
62 Top squads
64 Longtime Takei role
65 Texas city featured in most "Fixer Upper" episodes
66 "One Mic" rapper
68 Actress Dennings
71 Hindu or Buddhist spiritual leader
74 "No refunds" transaction
75 Polka —
78 Top-notch
80 Sea food
82 Joule fraction
83 Animal shelter goal
84 Letter closer
85 Wraps up
86 Bars
87 Organ with alveoli
88 Blackboard chore
89 Receptacle
90 Bird in Mo Willems books
91 Start discussing
94 Timetable listings
95 Skin care brand in blue containers
96 Girl Scout's outfit?
97 Lotus position, e.g.
98 Genetic letters
102 Hammer-wielding superhero in Marvel films
104 Older "Frozen" sister
106 Actress Courteney
107 Couple
108 Understand
109 Flamenco shout
110 This second

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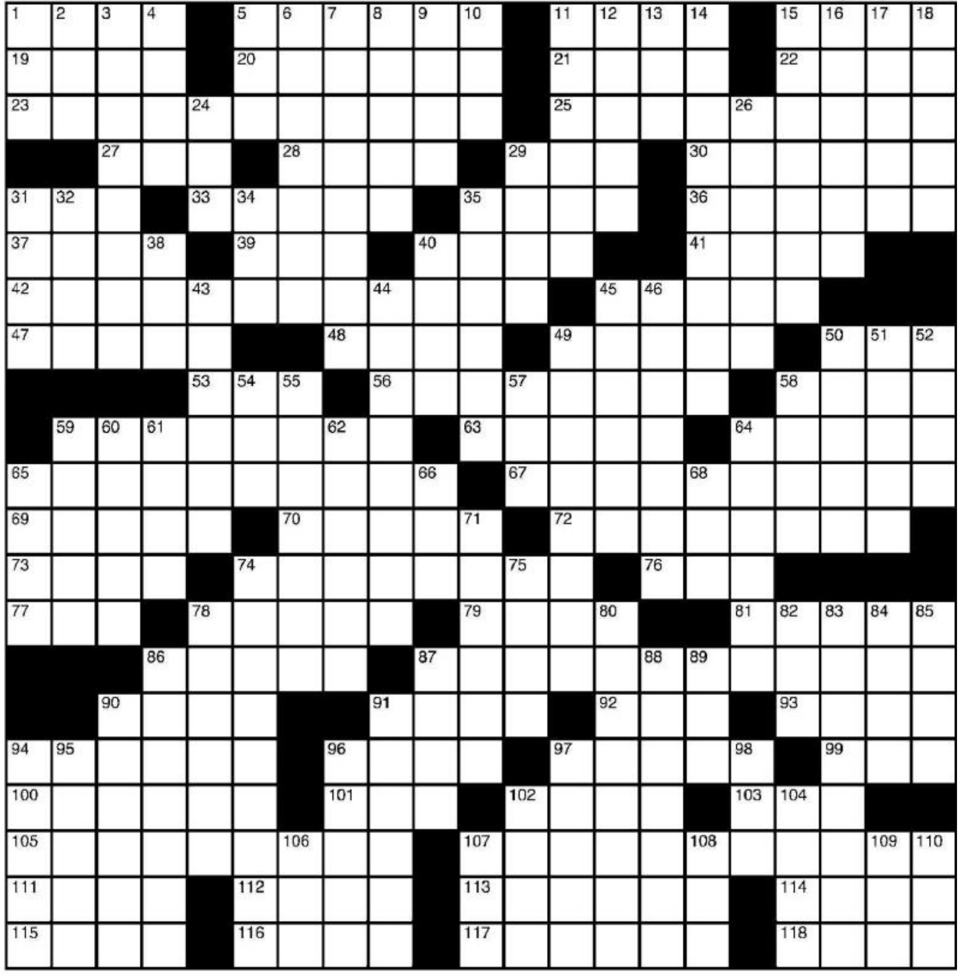

Last week's solution: ""Stereo Types""

A	T	A	D	■	U	S	C	■	E	W	E	S	■	■	T	U	N	I	C	S
P	A	R	E	■	S	R	O	■	R	O	M	A	■	T	O	T	A	L	L	Y
B	R	E	A	T	H	I	N	G	R	O	O	M	■	O	B	E	R	L	I	N
■	■	A	C	A	I	■	T	O	A	D	■	B	O	N	O	■	■	G	O	T
A	P	R	O	N	S	■	E	A	T	■	■	A	S	Y	O	U	W	I	S	H
D	R	U	N	K	T	E	X	T	I	N	G	■	S	A	T	N	A	V	■	■
D	O	G	S	■	O	A	T	■	C	O	A	T	I	■	■	F	L	E	A	■
S	M	S	■	D	R	S	■	■	■	S	W	E	E	T	R	E	L	I	S	H
■	■	■	L	A	Y	E	R	■	H	E	P	A	■	R	O	D	■	T	Y	E
A	S	S	A	M	■	■	E	R	A	S	■	R	A	I	L	■	T	A	L	L
P	U	T	O	N	A	S	H	O	W	■	B	A	Z	O	O	K	A	G	U	M
I	N	E	S	■	D	A	M	P	■	O	T	T	O	■	■	A	T	O	M	S
S	T	P	■	G	A	L	■	E	G	O	S	■	V	I	S	T	A	■	■	■
H	A	P	P	Y	M	E	D	I	U	M	■	■	■	S	P	Y	■	R	N	A
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■	■	D	R	O	N	E	D	■	C	H	E	C	K	O	U	T	T	I	M	E
S	T	A	R	S	I	G	N	S	■	■	A	H	I	■	C	A	U	S	E	S
H	A	S	■	■	N	A	T	O	■	G	T	O	S	■	E	P	P	S	■	■
O	M	I	T	T	E	D	■	S	U	R	R	O	U	N	D	S	O	U	N	D
R	E	D	H	O	T	S	■	A	S	I	A	■	I	O	U	■	R	E	A	M
T	R	E	A	T	Y	■	■	D	E	N	Y	■	T	S	P	■	S	S	T	S

ASK AMY

Dear Amy: I recently visited friends who moved to another state. I've known them for more than 20 years.

This recent visit was my fourth visit to this new home.

The problem is that my friend doesn't seem to feel responsible for having food in her house for guests.

This is the second visit on which I have found myself buying my own food.

The first night, she and I went to their club for dinner, then went to a supermarket because my friend needed some things for herself.

I realized that if I wanted breakfast or a glass of wine, I needed to buy it.

I try to be a generous and easy guest, so I paid the supermarket tab (I even bought her rubber gloves).

When you might expect to be offered a nosh before dinner, she offered nothing. I found myself scrounging for something to eat.

My friend has severe Crohn's disease, so she has to be very careful about what she eats.

When I have houseguests, I provide! Your feedback?

WANT TO NOSH

Dear Want to Nosh: Please, do not begrudge your hostess the fact that you paid for some rubber gloves.

Your friend is treating you to housing and presumably some quality friendship-time. She also hosted you for dinner at their club (that's one meal she provided).

I've noticed that attitudes and behavior toward providing food can change radically as people age and are less accustomed to frequently feeding groups.

Your friend, who has a serious illness, likely brings her own food when/if she travels. Your food needs should be on her radar, but they aren't.

Ideally, after the first time, you would have anticipated your understandable need, and — along with a thoughtful hostess gift — would have brought your favorite groceries to the house.

Next time, you could tell her, "I'm going to pick up a few groceries. Do you have room in your fridge? And can I bring anything for you?"

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

POKER

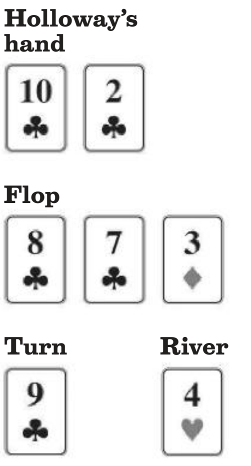
CHAD HOLLOWAY

One of the newest poker rooms in Las Vegas is at Resorts World, which is where I recently found myself playing at a $1-$3 no-limit hold 'em table.

On just the third hand after sitting down, three players called $3 and I looked down at the 10♣ 2♣ on the button. It's a hand known as "The Brunson" due to poker legend Doyle Brunson winning both the 1976 and 1977 World Series of Poker Main Events holding a 10-deuce. Even so, it's actually a pretty bad hand, though that didn't stop me from putting in $3.

The small blind put in an additional $2 and the big blind checked their option to make it six-way action to a flop of 8♣ 7♣ 3♦. Action checked to me but the dealer didn't realize I still had cards. He accidentally burned-and-turned the 10♦ before he realized action was still on me.

That would've been a good card for me, but per the rules, I would still have an option and that premature turn card would be shuffled back in and a new card put out. Given I had a club flush draw, I decided to bet $10 into the pot of $18. Only the lady in the small blind and the player in the hijack (the spot two to the right of the dealer button) called and it was three-way action to the new turn, which was the 9♣.



I not only made my flush but also picked up a straight flush redraw. Two checks put action back on me and I bet $20 into the pot of $48. The lady in the small blind folded but the hijack came along to see the 4♥ on the river. It was a brick and I began to think how much I was going to bet. Do I bet $50 — about half the pot — and hope to get called by maybe a straight or two pair? Would those hands call a bigger bet of say $100?

I was leaning toward betting bigger when my opponent surprised me by betting $50. Would my opponent really bet a straight with three clubs on board? Possibly a worse hand? Those seemed like check-call hands to me. As such, it felt to me that my opponent was either betting because he missed a flush draw, say with either the bare A♣ or K♣ in his hand, and couldn't win any other way; or he actually had a better flush.

Given that, I didn't see a point in raising. If he was bluffing, then he'd almost certainly fold, but if he had the better flush, he would likely reraise. I opted to call and he rolled over the A♣ 5♣ for a superior flush.

It was a cooler, but the silver lining was I actually saved some money because if he had checked, I'd more than likely have bet $100.

Holloway is a 2013 World Series of Poker bracelet winner.

SUDOKU

8						1		2
		1		4			6	3
	2	4					8	
	8			5	3			
			8	7	4			
			9	2			5	
	1					3	2	
4	3			6		9		
7		8						6

Level: Impossible

©Amuse Labs

8	2	5	3	1	9	4	6	7
3	1	9	4	6	7	5	8	2
4	6	7	5	8	2	9	1	3
2	4	8	6	3	5	7	9	1
5	7	1	9	2	4	6	3	8
9	3	6	1	7	8	2	4	5
7	9	2	8	4	3	1	5	6
1	5	3	7	9	6	8	2	4
6	8	4	2	5	1	3	7	9

Solution to last week's puzzle

More Online

For other brain-teasing challenges, go to *latimes.com/games*.

1							3	6
8	3			4				7
	5	9		8		1		
					4			9
		8				2		
7			6					
				3			1	
9							5	8
5	6							3

Level: Tough

			6		
					4
	2			1	
	5	6		2	
3					
		2			

Level: Tough

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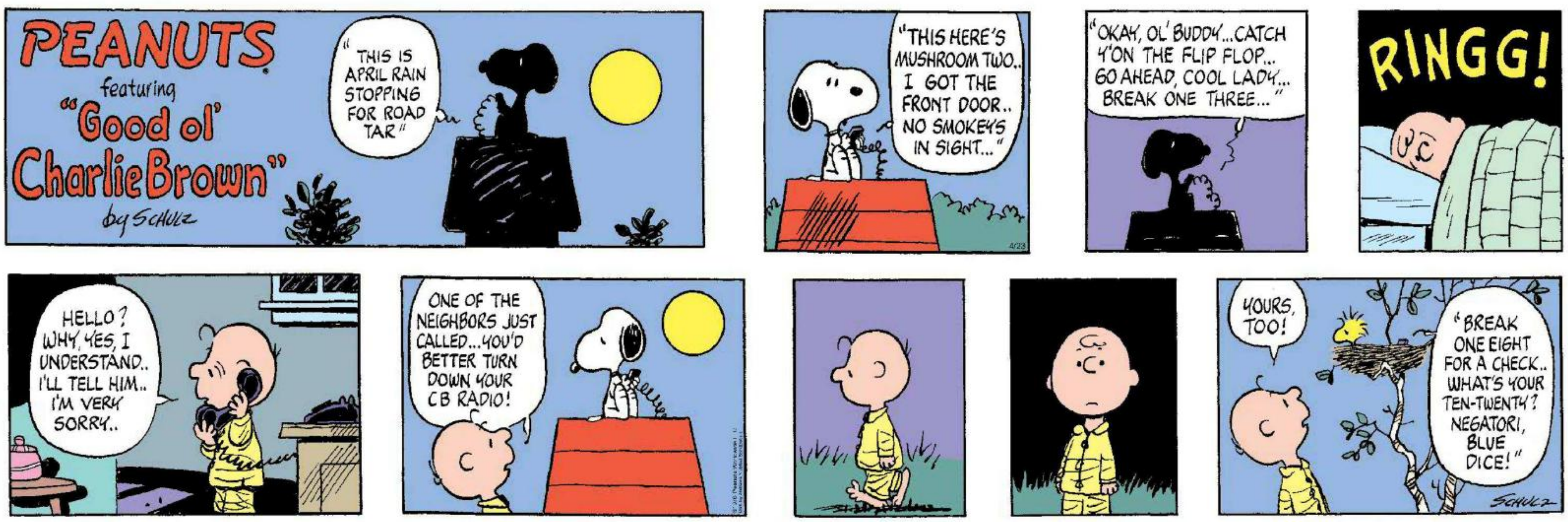
4	8	5	6	9	2	3	7	1
2	7	6	4	3	1	8	5	9
9	3	1	5	8	7	4	6	2
1	4	3	2	5	9	7	8	6
5	6	9	8	7	4	1	2	3
7	2	8	3	1	6	9	4	5
8	5	4	9	6	3	2	1	7
3	1	2	7	4	5	6	9	8
6	9	7	1	2	8	5	3	4

2	3	6	4	5	1
1	5	4	3	6	2
6	1	3	5	2	4
5	4	2	6	1	3
4	6	1	2	3	5
3	2	5	1	4	6

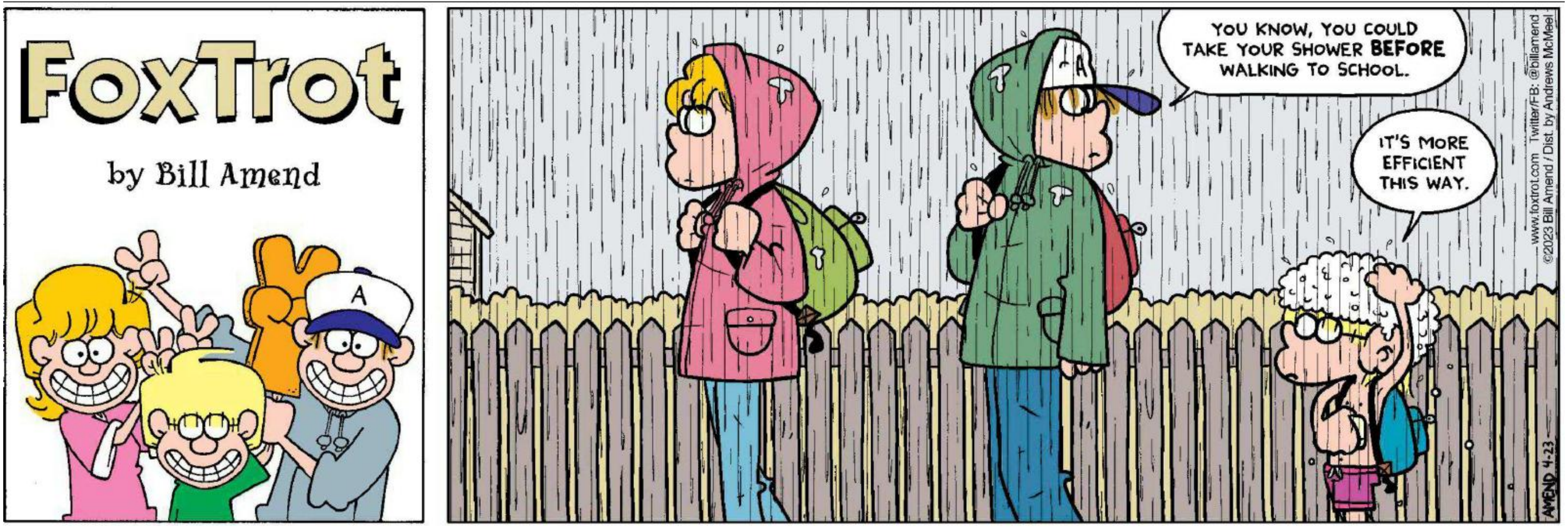
Solutions to Saturday's puzzles

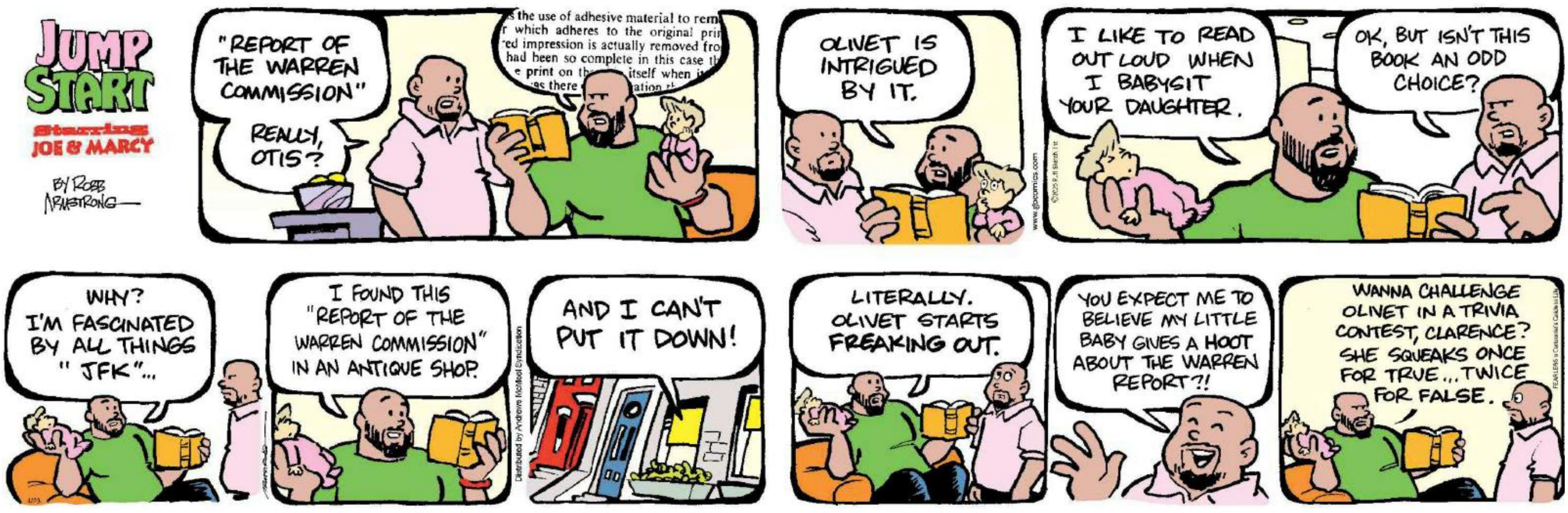
4/23/23

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

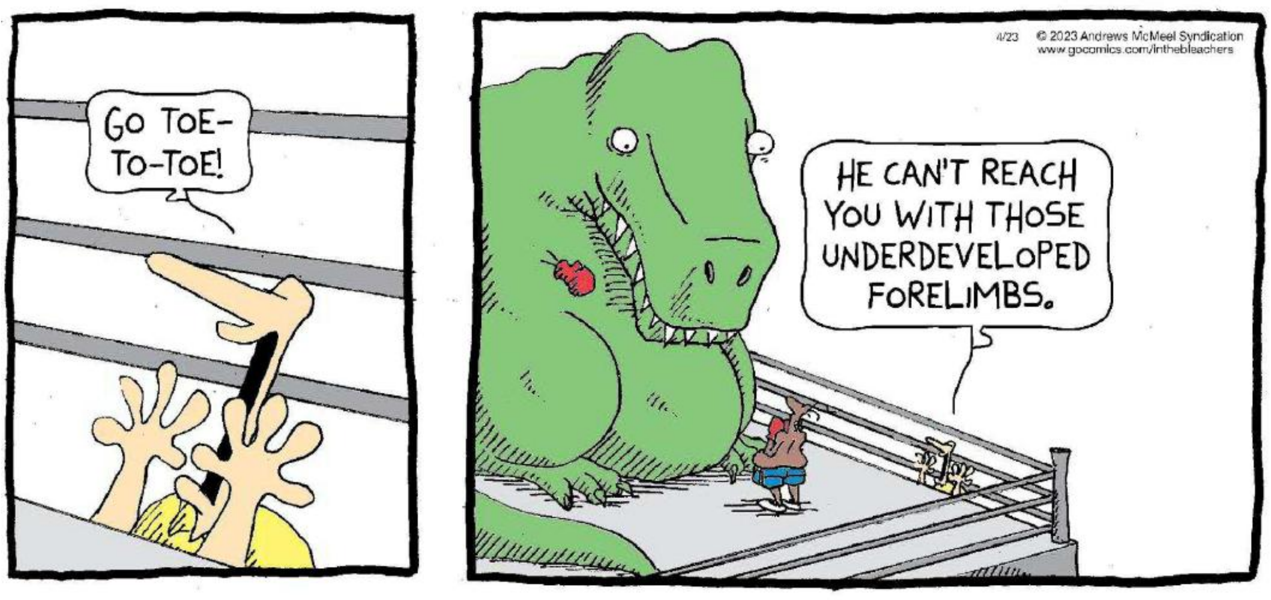


PEANUTS featuring "Good ol' Charlie Brown" by SCHULZ
"THIS IS APRIL RAIN STOPPING FOR ROAD TAR"
"THIS HERE'S MUSHROOM TWO.. I GOT THE FRONT DOOR.. NO SMOKEYS IN SIGHT..."
4/23
"OKAY, OL' BUDDY...CATCH Y'ON THE FLIP FLOP.. GO AHEAD, COOL LADY... BREAK ONE THREE..."
RINGG!
HELLO? WHY, YES, I UNDERSTAND.. I'LL TELL HIM.. I'M VERY SORRY..
ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS JUST CALLED...YOU'D BETTER TURN DOWN YOUR CB RADIO!
YOURS, TOO!
"BREAK ONE EIGHT FOR A CHECK.. WHAT'S YOUR TEN-TWENTY? NEGATORI, BLUE DICE!"
SCHULZ

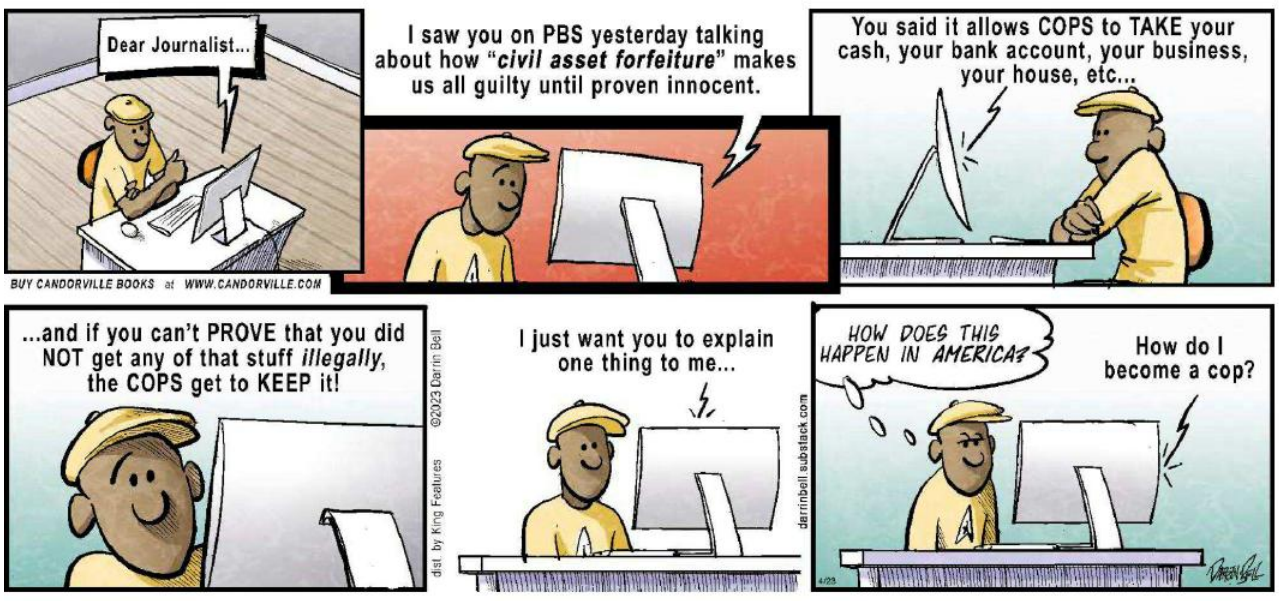

FoxTrot
by Bill Amend
YOU KNOW, YOU COULD TAKE YOUR SHOWER BEFORE WALKING TO SCHOOL.
IT'S MORE EFFICIENT THIS WAY.
www.foxtrot.com Twitter/FB: @billamend ©2023 Bill Amend / Dist. by Andrews McMeel
AMEND 4-23


JUMP START
Starring JOE & MARCY
BY ROBB ARMSTRONG
"REPORT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION"
REALLY, OTIS?
s the use of adhesive material to rem r which adheres to the original pri ed impression is actually removed fro had been so complete in this case th e print on th itself when it as there ation
OLIVET IS INTRIGUED BY IT.
www.gocomics.com
I LIKE TO READ OUT LOUD WHEN I BABYSIT YOUR DAUGHTER.
OK, BUT ISN'T THIS BOOK AN ODD CHOICE?
WHY? I'M FASCINATED BY ALL THINGS "JFK"...
I FOUND THIS "REPORT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION" IN AN ANTIQUE SHOP.
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
AND I CAN'T PUT IT DOWN!
LITERALLY. OLIVET STARTS FREAKING OUT.
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE MY LITTLE BABY GIVES A HOOT ABOUT THE WARREN REPORT?!
WANNA CHALLENGE OLIVET IN A TRIVIA CONTEST, CLARENCE? SHE SQUEAKS ONCE FOR TRUE... TWICE FOR FALSE.

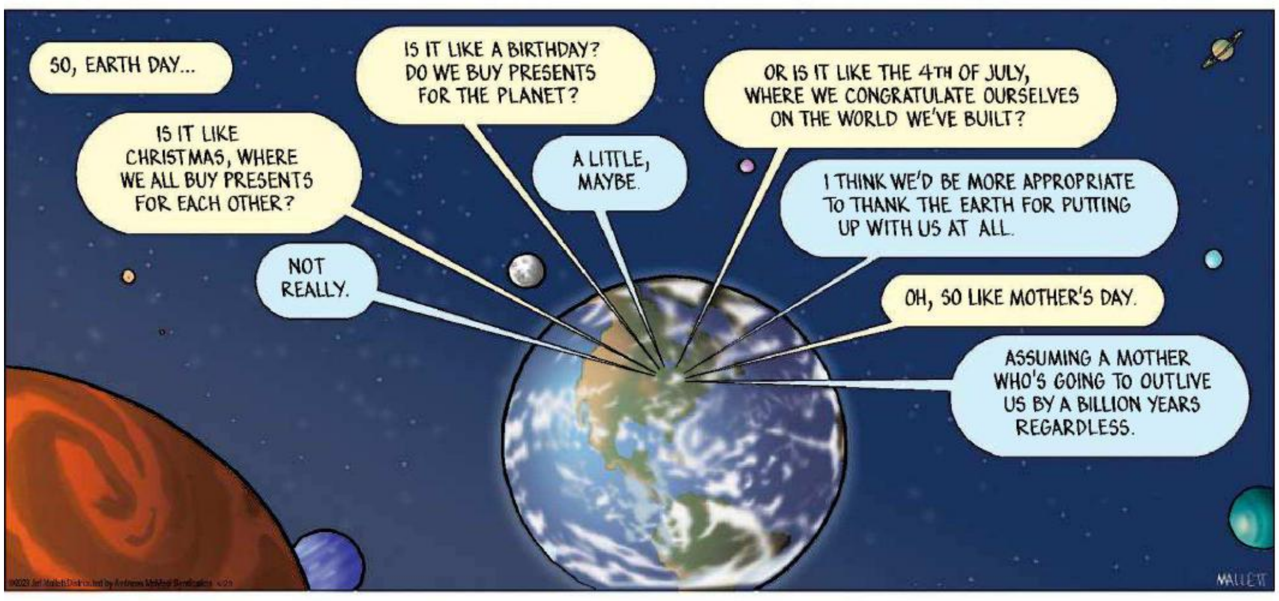
IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore

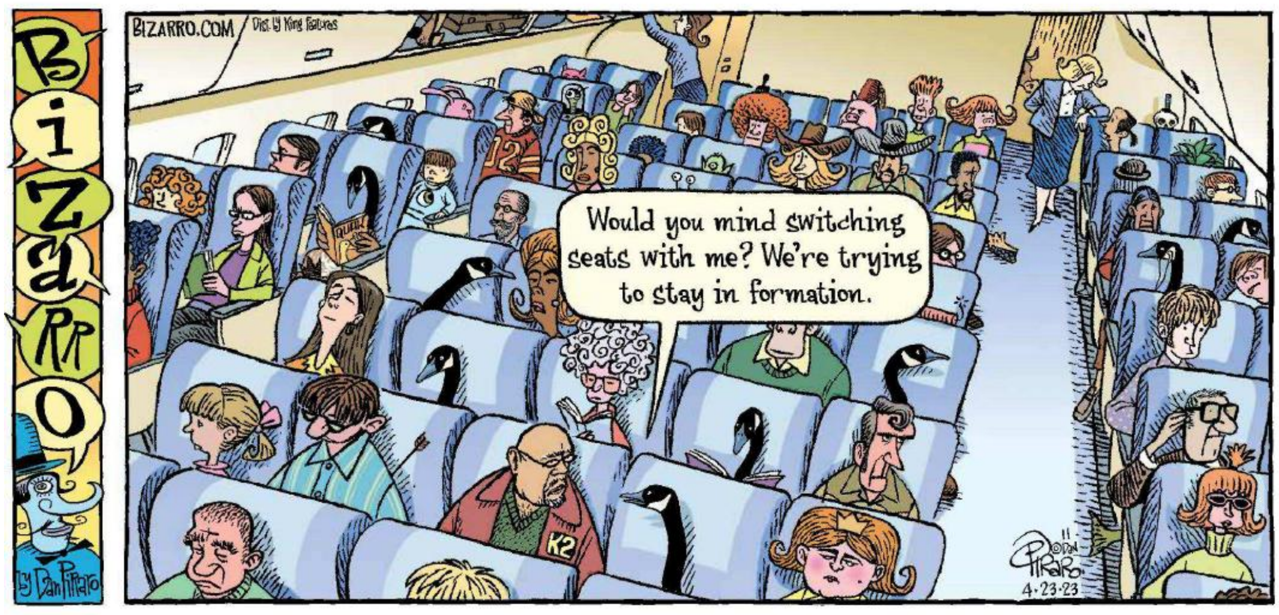

GO TOE-TO-TOE!
4/23 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.gocomics.com/inthebleachers
HE CAN'T REACH YOU WITH THOSE UNDERDEVELOPED FORELIMBS.

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

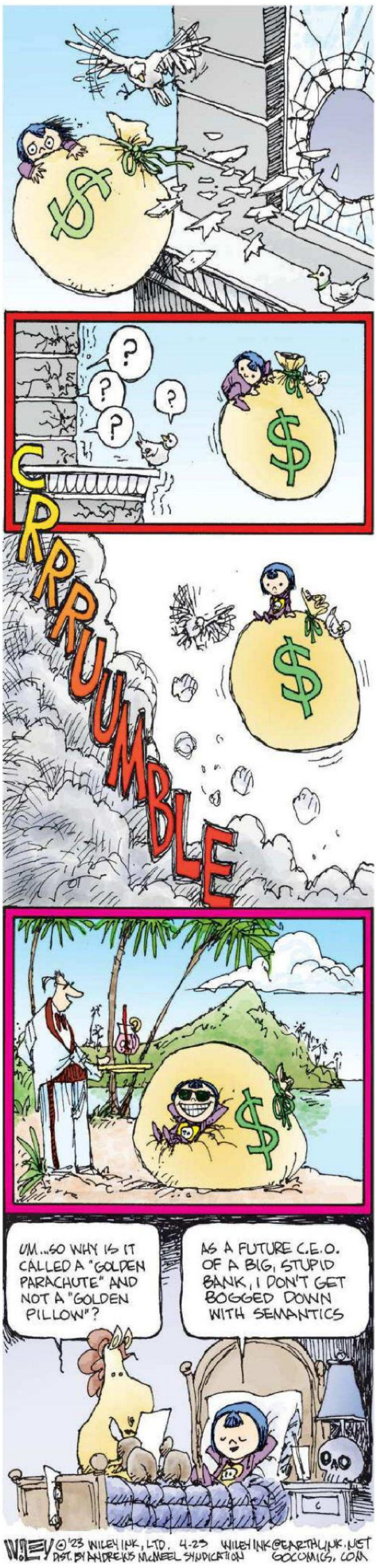

Dear Journalist...
I saw you on PBS yesterday talking about how "civil asset forfeiture" makes us all guilty until proven innocent.
You said it allows COPS to TAKE your cash, your bank account, your business, your house, etc...
BUY CANDORVILLE BOOKS at WWW.CANDORVILLE.COM
...and if you can't PROVE that you did NOT get any of that stuff illegally, the COPS get to KEEP it!
©2023 Darrin Bell
dist. by King Features
I just want you to explain one thing to me...
darrinbell.substack.com
HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN IN AMERICA?
How do I become a cop?
4/23

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


SO, EARTH DAY...
IS IT LIKE CHRISTMAS, WHERE WE ALL BUY PRESENTS FOR EACH OTHER?
NOT REALLY.
IS IT LIKE A BIRTHDAY? DO WE BUY PRESENTS FOR THE PLANET?
A LITTLE, MAYBE.
OR IS IT LIKE THE 4TH OF JULY, WHERE WE CONGRATULATE OURSELVES ON THE WORLD WE'VE BUILT?
I THINK WE'D BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO THANK THE EARTH FOR PUTTING UP WITH US AT ALL.
OH, SO LIKE MOTHER'S DAY.
ASSUMING A MOTHER WHO'S GOING TO OUTLIVE US BY A BILLION YEARS REGARDLESS.
MALLETT


BIZARRO
by Dan Piraro
BIZARRO.COM / Dist. by King Features
Would you mind switching seats with me? We're trying to stay in formation.
©Dan Piraro 4-23-23

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


?
?
?
?
CRRRUUMBLE
UM...SO WHY IS IT CALLED A "GOLDEN PARACHUTE" AND NOT A "GOLDEN PILLOW"?
AS A FUTURE C.E.O. OF A BIG, STUPID BANK, I DON'T GET BOGGED DOWN WITH SEMANTICS
WILEY ©'23 WILEY INK, LTD. 4-23 WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET
DIST. BY ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION GOCOMICS.COM

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
CHINA WATCH
CHINA DAILY 中国日报

FLYING HIGH

MIGRATING BIRDS FIND HOME AWAY FROM HOME

SOCIETY, PAGE 2

GRAND REVIVAL

OLD ART FORM DRAWS NEW GENERATION OF ADMIRERS

LIFE, PAGE 4

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Economic rebound spurs optimism

China's economy is rebounding strongly as things return to normal following the pandemic and is projected to grow 5.2% this year, with positive effects likely to be felt worldwide, the International Monetary Fund said.

The IMF's forecast in its World Economic Outlook published on April 11 is close to China's GDP growth target of about 5%, which was set during last month's two sessions, the annual sittings of the country's top legislature and political advisory body.

"With China absorbing about a quarter of exports from Asia and between 5% and 10% from other geographic regions, the reopening and growth of its economy will likely generate positive spillovers," the IMF said in the quarterly report.

Countries with stronger trade links and reliance on Chinese tourism are likely to have even greater positive spillovers, the report said.

After China's pandemic control measures were optimized, many outbreaks led to declines in people's mobility and economic activity in the fourth quarter of last year, compounded by stress in the property market.

"The Chinese authorities have responded with a variety of measures, including additional monetary easing, tax relief for firms, new vaccination targets for the elderly, and measures to encourage the completion and delivery of unfinished real estate projects," the IMF said.

As COVID-19 waves subsided in January, mobility normalized and high-frequency economic indicators, such as retail sales and travel bookings, started picking up.

A plane undergoes checks at an aircraft maintenance base in Haikou, Hainan province, on April 4. ZHANG LIYUN / XINHUA

There have also been signs of improved monetary conditions as China's broad measure of money supply, or M2, stood at 281.46 trillion yuan ($40.88 trillion) by the end of last month, 12.7% more than in the corresponding time last year, the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said on April 11. This indicated more accommodative monetary conditions existed to support the economy.

> "With China absorbing about a quarter of exports from Asia and between 5% and 10% from other geographic regions, the reopening and growth of its economy will likely generate positive spillovers."
>
> **IMF REPORT**

China's credit growth continued to recover last month as new yuan-denominated loans totaled 3.89 trillion yuan, 749.7 billion yuan more than in the corresponding time last year. The country's increment in aggregate social financing — the total amount of financing to the real economy — came in at 5.38 trillion yuan last month, 707.9 billion yuan more than in the corresponding period last year, the central bank said.

Globally, economic growth will bottom out at 2.8% this year before rising slowly to 3% next year, a lackluster pace by historical standards, as inflation is stickier than had been expected and financial risks have risen, the IMF said.

"This year's economic slowdown is concentrated in advanced economies, especially the euro area and the United Kingdom, where growth is expected to fall to 0.8% and -0.3% this year before rebounding to 1.4% and 1%, respectively," Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's economic counselor, wrote in a blog.

Gourinchas, also director of research at the IMF, said downside risks dominate and that the fog in which the world economic outlook finds itself has thickened.

While global inflation has declined, that mostly reflects the sharp reversal in energy and food prices. But core inflation, which excludes energy and food, has not yet peaked in many countries, he wrote in the blog, published on April 11.

Core inflation will reach 5.1% at the end of this year, he said, 0.6 percentage point more than was stated in the IMF's January update.

In contrast to inflationary pressures faced by major economies, China's inflation is relatively low, leaving room for the government to step up necessary macroeconomic policy support in coming months.

Last month China's consumer price index, a key gauge of inflation, rose 0.7% year-on-year after a 1% rise in February, the National Bureau of Statistics said on April 11. The growth in March was an 18-month low, the bureau said.

—ZHAO HUANXIN AND OUYANG SHIJIA

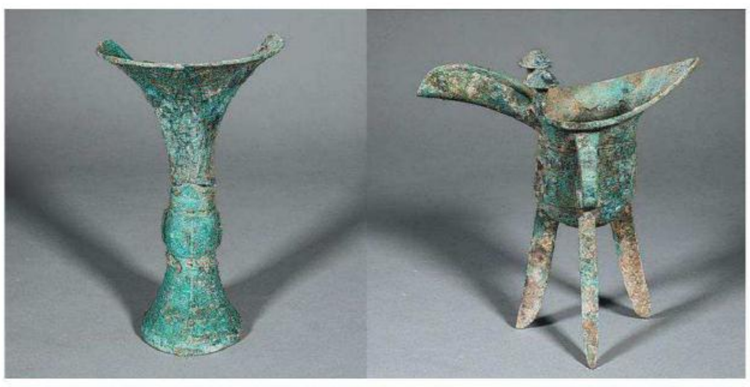
ANCIENT ROYAL GRAVE GIVEN A PLACE OF HONOR

The Yinxu Ruins, the 3,300-year-old remains of what was once the capital of the late Shang Dynasty (c.16th century-11th century B.C.), have been included in China's top 10 list of archaeological finds of 2022.

The list, published by the National Cultural Heritage Administration on March 28, recognizes the royal mausoleum remains at the site in Anyang city, Henan province, as a new find. The Yinxu Ruins were previously made famous by the discovery of the oracle bone inscriptions, the oldest-known Chinese script.

The list honors 10 outstanding examples of the nearly 1,700 archaeological projects that were implemented nationwide last year. Such lists have been published annually since 1990. A 21-member panel, comprising China's top scholars, voted through ballots to select the 10 outstanding projects of 2022 from 22 finalists.

Yinxu was the first independent excavation project carried out by Chinese academics almost a century ago, and now holds an exalted place in the annals of China's archaeological history.



Bronze wares unearthed at the royal mausoleum site of the Yinxu Ruins in Henan province. XINHUA

Sacrificial pits and trenches surrounding the royal graves discovered at Yinxu last year have reshaped people's understanding of Shang burial customs and the grand picture of the dynasty as a whole, archaeologists said.

Xia (c.21st century-16th century B.C.), Shang and Zhou (c.11th century-256 B.C.), the earliest dynasties in traditional Chinese historiography, with fewer historical records, have long been the focus of researchers, as they are believed to be the key to decoding the origins of Chinese civilization.

In addition to the royal mausoleum ruins at Yinxu, the top 10 list includes the crisscrossing road network at Erlitou in Luoyang, Henan province. The site is widely believed to have been the capital of the Xia Dynasty toward its end. The Xitou archaeological site in Xunyi county, Shaanxi province, with its high-level tombs and remains of an ancient city, believed to be the native place of the Zhou people, also made the final cut.

"The three sites have groundbreaking value," said Wang Wei, director of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Academic Division of History.

Archaeologists were hugely surprised to find the fossil of a human skull, about 1 million years old, at the Xuetangliangzi site in Shiyan, Hubei province, last year. It was labeled "skull No. 3 of the Yunxian man" after being found on May 18 last year, exactly 33 years after "skull No. 1 of the Yunxian man" was found nearby.

"Skull No. 3 is the best-preserved skull fossil of its time ever found in the hinterlands of the Eurasian region," said Lu Chengqiu, leader of the archaeological team at Xuetangliangzi. The site is the one with the longest history that made it to the 2022 top 10 list.

"It (the fossil) is a world-class discovery," said Chen Xingcan, director of CASS' Institute of Archaeology. "We have rarely ever found complete human skulls in Eurasia. … It offers us important material to study human evolution in East Asia."

Another of the finds archaeologists made last year was a makeshift human camp dating back 11,000 to 15,000 years at the Zhaojiaxuyao site in Zibo, Shandong province. Remains of fireplaces, animal bones and pottery items were found.

"Discoveries made at the site have filled gaps in our understanding of the transition period between the Paleolithic and Neolithic ages," Chen said. "The site is helping us study the origins of agriculture and pottery in northern China."

— WANG RU AND WANG KAIHAO

Luxury goods upswing points the way ahead

Encouraged by the huge potential of the China market, major foreign luxury and consumer products companies said they will continue to increase investments in the Hainan Free Trade Port, which, in turn, will help further develop international brands.

Such companies' top executives made the remarks at the recently concluded Third China International Consumer Products Expo in Haikou, Hainan province.

They said they have witnessed the expansion of China's consumption market in recent times and are confident that data-backed growth predictions will be borne out.

China imported consumer goods worth 1.93 trillion yuan ($280 billion) last year, accounting for 11% of the value of all imports. Chinese consumers have shown a strong demand for high-quality products, and they prefer fashionable and green products, the Ministry of Commerce said.

The duty-free market in Hainan has added a new dimension to the global tourism retail industry, with many on-site retailers innovating their businesses and shopping experiences for consumers, said the latest Hainan travel retail market white paper by KPMG China and the Moodie Davitt Report that was published at the expo.

MER
ESTĒE LAUDER

The cosmetics brands on display at the Third China International Consumer Products Expo in Haikou, Hainan province. ZHANG WEI / CHINA DAILY

The luxury fashion company Tapestry, the parent of Coach, Stuart Weitzman and Kate Spade brands, and a three-time participant at the expo, said it has established its travel retail headquarters for China in Hainan.

"We will continue to explore digital transformation and strengthen our social media marketing efforts in China, as online sales have become increasingly important in the Chinese mainland for luxury consumption," said Janet Zhong, vice-president of Tapestry and Coach in the Asia-Pacific.

Over the coming 10 years sales in China's fashion consumption market are expected to grow steadily, driven mainly by Chinese consumers' pursuit of ever more premium products with additional features rather than larger volumes, according to a forecast that Boston Consulting Group made during the expo.

The skincare group Estee Lauder said the company has confidence in the China market and has realized the importance of the duty-free shopping market in Hainan. It said it will seek more collaboration with Chinese partners, introduce new top-quality products in Hainan and contribute to the growth of Hainan Free Trade Port.

—ZHU WENQIAN

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Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Migratory birds fly in a wetland park in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region in March. LIAN ZHEN / XINHUA

Birds of a feather survive together

Climate change has posed a threat to the habitats of the Siberian crane, fueling the need to better protect the birds and their migratory channels, an expert says.

The eastern group of the species breeds in northeastern Siberia in Russia and migrates to Poyang Lake for the winter in Jiangxi province, eastern China.

About 95% of the birds spend the season in Poyang.

Qian Fawen, a research professor at the National Bird Banding Center of China, part of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, said Poyang's water levels determine whether it is suitable for the birds to nest there. However, climate change has caused the levels to fluctuate abnormally.

"In some years the lake experiences floods, and in others it experiences droughts. Both of these situations create food shortages in the cranes' habitat."

The Siberian crane feeds on plants such as eelgrass. During periods of flooding or drought the grass fares poorly, so the birds head for farmland to look for food.

To help solve this problem, the Jiangxi provincial government has built 173 acres of lotus roots in the city of Nanchang to provide sustenance for the cranes during the winter.

On the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, the Siberian crane is listed as critically endangered. Even so, its numbers have risen from about 3,000 20 years ago to more than 5,000, said Qian, who has observed the birds around the lake since 1999.

"To protect them we need to protect their habitat, which is mainly wetland," he said.

In the recently published National Action Plan for the Protection of Bird Migration Channels (2021-35), 1,140 sites in China were identified as important breeding grounds, wintering grounds and migratory stops, including Poyang and the Yellow River wetland in the Ningxia Hui autonomous region.

China has 804 species of migratory birds, accounting for 55.6% of all bird species, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration said.

Since China became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an intergovernmental treaty signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1992, it has designated 18.8 million acres of wetland as Wetlands of International Importance, the administration said.

Wetlands, often referred to as the "kidneys of the Earth" and as "species gene pools", conserve and clean water, maintain biodiversity, help contain floods and prevent droughts.

According to a plan announced by the central government in October, by 2025 China will have protected 55% of its wetlands.

After the Wetlands Protection Law, the country's first law to focus on protecting wetlands, was introduced on June 1 last year, comprehensive protection was strengthened, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration said.

Key nature reserve management bureaus in China have reported more birds, including some new rare species, wintering in the country's wetlands.

In February the forestry bureau in Hunan province reported 72 species of waterbirds that were spending this past winter at Dongting Lake, which stretches across several counties and cities.

Mallards and Eurasian cranes are among the birds staying at the lake. Black-faced spoonbills, a rare and endangered species, were also spotted at Dongting after an absence of five years.

The number of spoonbills has risen from 300 in the 1980s to more than 5,000 now, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration said.

— LI HONGYANG

A smart greenhouse to grow tomatoes in Shouguang, Shandong province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Technology helps farmers ensure quality

At an agricultural technology company in a city known as the "vegetable capital of China", crops are thriving in a shipping container.

The roots of these green-leaf vegetables are immersed in water rich in nutrients. A screen in the container shows information about temperature, humidity, concentration of carbon dioxide, lighting levels and concentration of the nutrient solution.

Liu Pengpeng, who oversees the container vegetable project at Shouguang Xiangtian Agriculture Co. in Jitai town of Shouguang, Shandong province, said it takes 28 days for the vegetable seedlings to grow before they can be harvested.

"Using hydroponic systems, we designed this mobile shipping container vegetable farm, which can withstand severe weather for fresh vegetables to be grown locally all year round," Liu said.

A 40-foot shipping container is typically used to grow about 5,000 green-leaf vegetables on the equivalent of 0.32 acres of farmland, he said.

Since launching the first hydroponic container farm in 2017, the company has sold more than 40, mainly to customers in countries including Canada, Malaysia, Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. It expects to sell more than 2,000 of the farms this year.

A technician tends to plants grown in a shipping container in Shouguang.
YANG JUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

A smart glass greenhouse used to grow tomatoes at a demonstration base for modern agricultural technologies in Shouguang features more than 120 patented technologies developed by a team from the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Data showing humidity, temperature and carbon dioxide levels are updated on a large electronic screen in the greenhouse.

Covering about 860,000 square feet, the size of 11 standard soccer fields, the greenhouse requires few workers. Instead, robots and other devices are used to pick and transport the tomatoes.

Wang Haiguang, deputy director of the operations office at the greenhouse, said: "As it would be very difficult to manage such a big structure with a human labor force, we use a cloud management system to maintain the right conditions for the crops."

Sensors collect information about humidity, water, fertilizer, sunlight, heat and ventilation that is uploaded to a platform to be analyzed. Based on the analysis, the automatic irrigation system supplies the appropriate levels of water and fertilizer to the crops, Wang said.

"Growing crops in a controlled environment enables farmers to produce high-quality plants, maintain high food safety standards and avoid the use of pesticides," Wang said.

Greenhouses equipped with smart systems based on the internet of things and big data account for more than 80% of the total number in Shouguang, the city government said. Shouguang now boasts 173,000 greenhouses producing 5 million short tons of vegetables annually.

— ZHAO RUIXUE

Trip promotes cross-Strait understanding

Ma Ying-jeou became the first former leader of Taiwan to visit the Chinese mainland when he made the trip between March 27 and April 7, and experts said it has shed light on the common culture and history of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait.

It has also brought people from both sides closer and encouraged more Taiwan residents to trace their origins on the mainland, they said.

Ma returned to Taiwan from Shanghai after a 12-day tour of the mainland. It was the first time Ma, 73, had set foot on the mainland.

He expressed confidence in resuming exchanges between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait.

"Young people are our future, and the earlier we communicate and get to know each other, the lower the chances of conflict in the future."

Ma said his visit to the mainland was the first step and he will invite mainland students to visit Taiwan.

"Resuming exchanges and dialogue as soon as possible benefits the interests of Taiwan people the most.

"The future is the choice of peace or war. I will continue to work hard among the people to ensure a truly peaceful, prosperous and secure future for Taiwan," Ma said.

> "Young people are our future, and the earlier we communicate and get to know each other, the lower the chances of conflict in the future."
>
> **MA YING-JEOU**

During the trip he led a group of young people from Taiwan to visit many historic sites that embody common memories of the two sides, including the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum and the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders, in Nanjing, Jiangsu province.

He also paid his respects to his ancestors in Xiangtan, Hunan province, where his family originates. Standing in front of his grandfather's tomb, Ma, with tears welling in his eyes, read a eulogy to the deceased.

"Dear grandfather, this is the first time in my life that I have come to the mainland to worship ancestors and visit relatives. I am very moved," he said. "Your legacy reminds us to love ourselves and pursue self-improvement, help others and be loyal to our duties."

His grandfather, Ma Li'an, who was born in Xiangtan in 1868 and died in 1927, was a successful businessman and was devoted to helping the local community, including in the building of schools and a port.

On many occasions, Ma has mentioned his grandfather and the family motto that he left, which advocates studying hard and performing good deeds. The younger Ma included the motto on the title page of his doctoral thesis.

Ma said that paying respects to ancestors is a very important part of the Chinese people's ethical education. Although he never met his grandfather, since he previously had been unable to visit the mainland, he had always hoped to pay his respects to him.

"My wish of many years has finally come true," he said.

During a visit to the original site of the university his parents attended in Chongqing, he was surprised to see a wedding photo of his parents on display. He was also given a memorial album with an assortment of old photos and letters from his parents.

Bao Chengke, assistant director at the Institute for East Asian Studies in Shanghai, said: "It is a weighty gift, and the mainland has carefully prepared for this trip. The trip has brought people on both sides of the Strait closer."

People-to-people exchanges could help resolve the psychological confrontation between those on both sides in recent years, and arouse their common historical and cultural memories, Bao said.

By visiting the historic sites, young people in Taiwan can see clearly that people on both sides of the Strait have fought together against the Japanese invaders in modern Chinese history, and share common historical memories and emotional pursuits, he said.

"I believe that anyone from Taiwan will be moved when they see the site of the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum that has been well preserved on the mainland."

Historical memories could be aroused through the visit, and the experience helped young people deepen their understanding of the mainland, he said.

Bao forecast that Ma's trip will encourage more young Taiwan people to come to the mainland to explore their roots.

"They will not only search for their ancestors but also their sources of thought, history and emotion."

Even though the trip was a personal one, Ma enjoys far-reaching political influence on the island, he said.

The group also visited cities including Wuhan, Hubei province, and Changsha, Hunan province.

Lee Wei-kuo, chairman of the Chinese Youth Trade Development Association in Taipei, said the trip highlighted young people's important role in the future of both sides of the Strait.

"Only by strengthening understanding can we further work together for the future. I believe that when these students return to Taiwan they will tell their friends about what they have seen and heard."

Lee said he believes Ma's visit will encourage more Taiwan residents to visit the mainland, which will deepen connections between compatriots on both sides.

Ma's trip will mark a new beginning for all-around exchanges between the two sides, he said, adding that he is planning to organize students from Taiwan to visit and get internships in Guangdong province this summer.

— ZHANG YI

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CHENGDU SPECIAL

Chengdu Universiade: All set and ready to go

Chengdu's preparations for the 31st Summer World University Games are in full swing. The capital of Sichuan province will host the event from July 28 to Aug 8 and it is intent on presenting to the world an international sports gala with the unique charm and youthful spirit.

The World University Games sponsored by the International University Sports Federation is a comprehensive global competition for university athletes that is second only to the Olympic Games in scale.

During the Heads of Delegation Meeting of the Chengdu 2021 FISU World University Games held from March 28 to 31, Leonz Eder, acting president of FISU; Eric Saintrond, secretary-general of FISU; FISU Games Summer Director Zhao Jing; and other FISU officials spoke highly of Chengdu's preparations for the upcoming event.

"Chengdu has very well prepared and the organizing committee did the best they can do to welcome athletes from all over the world," said Eder.

"The venues are fantastic, the people I met are so enthusiastic, and as we can see during the meeting, the heads of delegations are looking forward to attending the games," he said.

As a milestone event in the preparation of the Universiade, the Heads of Delegation Meeting of the Chengdu 2021 FISU World University Games is an important communication platform for the host city and the delegations.

The meeting attracted representatives of 79 delegations. More than 20 senior officials from FISU also participated.

During the four-day meeting, members from the executive committee of the Chengdu Universiade communicated face-to-face with the FISU officials about the preparations for the event, announced policies and procedures and answered questions from the delegation representatives. FISU and the participating delegation representatives also conducted on-the-spot investigations of 27 competition venues and Universiade Village to understand the facilities and conditions of each venue.

Clockwise from top: The International University Sports Federation officials and delegates visit the venues for the Universiade during the Heads of Delegation Meeting of the Chengdu 2021 FISU World University Games held from March 28 to 31. The view of the Dong'an Lake Sports Park. Delegates experience local culture during their visit in Chengdu. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

FISU Secretary-General Saintrond came to Chengdu in 2019 to guide the preparations for the Universiade, when many venues were still under construction.

He came to Chengdu again after four years and was delighted to see that Chengdu has not only built more new venues, but also improved the quality of the venues in an all-round way.

"I must say that we could not expect more about what you did," Saintrond said, adding that the competition venues and the Universiade Village have been well built and the operation and services of the venues are also excellent.

He said that these venues and the Universiade Village will not only be used during the games, but also become an important cultural heritage of the city after the games, benefiting more people.

Saintrond noted that the FISU and Chengdu will jointly build a digital museum for the Universiade, which will be open to young students around the world online. Chengdu has taken hosting the Universiade as an opportunity to comprehensively upgrade its sports infrastructure.

At present, 13 new stadiums and 36 renovated stadiums for the Universiade have been completed in accordance with international standards. Some of the venues including the Dong'an Lake Sports Park and Phoenix Hill Sports Park have become landmarks of the city.

Dong'an Lake Sports Park, as its name suggests, is built around Dong'an Lake, which has a water area of more than 1,600 *mu*, or 262 acres. The park was the venue for the heads of delegation meeting.

The sports park includes a Grade-A stadium that can accommodate 40,000 people, a super large Grade-A gymnasium with 18,000 seats, a swimming and diving natatorium and a comprehensive arena for small ball games. It will be the venue for the opening ceremony of the Universiade, the gymnastics events, swimming competitions and will also be used for training.

Located on the campus of Chengdu University and fully completed in March 2021, the Universiade Village covers an area of about 8.61 million square feet and can accommodate about 11,000 people. Around 4,300 people can eat there at the same time.

It also provides fitness, business, leisure and entertainment, cultural exchanges and other services.

During their visit to the Universiade competition venues and the Universiade Village, officials from various delegations praised Chengdu's venue facilities and meticulous preparations.

Eugeniusz Puzan, administrative officer of the Polish delegation, said: "The venues are in good condition in all aspects and are of world-class standard. The staff members and volunteers have made great contributions to the organization of the event."

Puzan said that Poland plans to send a team of 300 people including athletes, officials and coaches to Chengdu to participate in shooting, swimming and other games. "In addition to winning medals, we also hope to have the opportunity to experience different cultures and make more friends in Chengdu."

Song Ji-yoo, an administrative officer of the Republic of Korea delegation, said: "The inspection has made me feel how Chengdu is doing its best to prepare for the Universiade. With modern venues and the Universiade Village, Chengdu will help athletes perform to their best."

David Knopp, deputy head of the United States delegation, said that the venues for the Chengdu Universiade are well constructed and beautiful. He said there will be 150 to 400 people in the U.S. delegation.

"We are still recruiting athletes. I will send the photos, videos and information about the preparation of the event to U.S. coaches and athletes to attract more athletes to sign up for the competition," he said.

Affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, the Chengdu Universiade, which was originally scheduled to be held in 2021, has been postponed twice. That presented many challenges to the preparations for the event. FISU Games Summer Director Zhao said: "From the perspective of FISU, we appreciate the passion and all the efforts Chengdu has made."

Since Chengdu bid to host the Universiade, Zhao has visited Chengdu 10 times and spent nearly 300 days and nights in Chengdu.

"There is an old saying in China that good things take time," Zhao said, adding that she is looking forward to the Chengdu Universiade and hopes that people from all over the world will have the opportunity to know about Chengdu. "The Chengdu Universiade is destined to be unique and spectacular!"

— YUAN SHENGGAO

Multifaceted city a kaleidoscope of attractions

The Chengdu Universiade is not only a sports event, but also a key platform for cultural exchanges.

Chengdu is an international metropolis where tradition and modernity complement each other. Hosting the sports event will let the world fully appreciate the charm of the city's rich cultural heritage and unique aesthetics of life.

During the Heads of Delegation Meeting of the Chengdu 2021 FISU World University Games, the FISU officials and delegates experienced the charm of the city through a variety of cultural activities and visited a number of popular tourist destinations such as the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, Kuanzhai Alley, Dongmen folk market and Wangpingfang Street.

They were amazed by Chengdu's cultural legacies outside the venues from painted kites and mascot Rongbao to panda-shaped ice cream.

"These kites are so beautiful and really touching my heart," said Leonz Eder, acting president of FISU. The kites were made by 360 elementary and middle school students from 12 schools in Qingyang district.

The children combined traditional Chinese ink painting techniques with local elements such as giant pandas, landmark buildings, and delicacies and conveyed their blessings to the athletes participating in the Universiade.

Two days later, Eder met the children at Kuanzhai Alley, a famous scenic spot in Chengdu, and they painted a kite together.

From left: Leonz Eder (fourth left), acting president of FISU, paints kites with children in Chengdu. Delegates visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding during the Heads of Delegation Meeting of the Chengdu 2021 FISU World University Games. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Sichuan province is the hometown of giant pandas and its capital Chengdu is the only megacity in the world where both captive and wild giant pandas live.

Located in the northern suburbs of Chengdu, the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding is probably the most famous artificial breeding base for giant pandas in the world.

The base is now home to more than 230 giant pandas, the largest population of breeding giant pandas in the world. The prototype of Rongbao, the mascot of the 31st Summer World University Games, is based on a giant panda named Zhima that lives in the base.

Dumisani Dondashe, the leader of the South African delegation, said that he was overjoyed to see giant pandas in Chengdu.

"This is a unique experience. I have never had the opportunity to see real pandas before," he said, adding that he also enjoyed other cultural projects such as the face-changing technique in Sichuan Opera and *gaiwan* tea, or lidded-cup tea. He said that Chengdu's inheritance and protection of its local culture had left a deep impression on him.

In Dongmen folk market's old street built according to real life scenes of ancient Chengdu, FISU officials and delegates experienced the local intangible cultural heritage such as ear-picking, bamboo weaving, paper-cutting and dough figurines with great interest.

They sat on bamboo chairs, sampled Chengdu's characteristic *gaiwan* tea in the afternoon sun and watched performances such as umbrella acrobatics and face-changing Sichuan Opera.

David Knopp, deputy head of the U.S. delegation, likes to chat while drinking jasmine tea, enjoying a slower pace of life. "I never thought that in a super-large city like Chengdu with a population of 21 million, people could still maintain such a carefree lifestyle," he said.

Knopp said that he was very happy to be invited to experience the daily life of Chengdu people. "The people in Chengdu are so friendly. I feel that I have fallen in love with this place and I don't want to go home.

"Fortunately, with the Chengdu Universiade in July this year, I still have the opportunity to return to Chengdu for a more in-depth visit," he said.

As night fell, the guests came to Dongmen folk market and boarded a sightseeing boat to enjoy night views of the Jinjiang River, the mother river of Chengdu, immersing themselves in sights and sounds of the city at night.

Xavier Dung, head of the French delegation, said: "I want to bring the beautiful scenery here back to Paris, show it to our team members, and let them come to participate in the competition this summer."

As the first city in Asia to be declared a "City of Gastronomy" by UNESCO, Chengdu is not only the birthplace of classic Sichuan dishes such as kung pao chicken and mapo tofu, but also famous for its spicy and delicious hotpots and exquisite and diverse snacks.

Nurlan Suleymanov from the Azerbaijan delegation had long wanted to try authentic Chengdu cuisine. During the visit, he tried one of the city's renowned hotpots.

"This is my first time eating a hotpot. It's really good. It's really spicy, but it's so delicious!"

Suleymanov was also fond of Sichuan green tea. He said that he only drank black tea before, and this was the first time he had tried green tea.

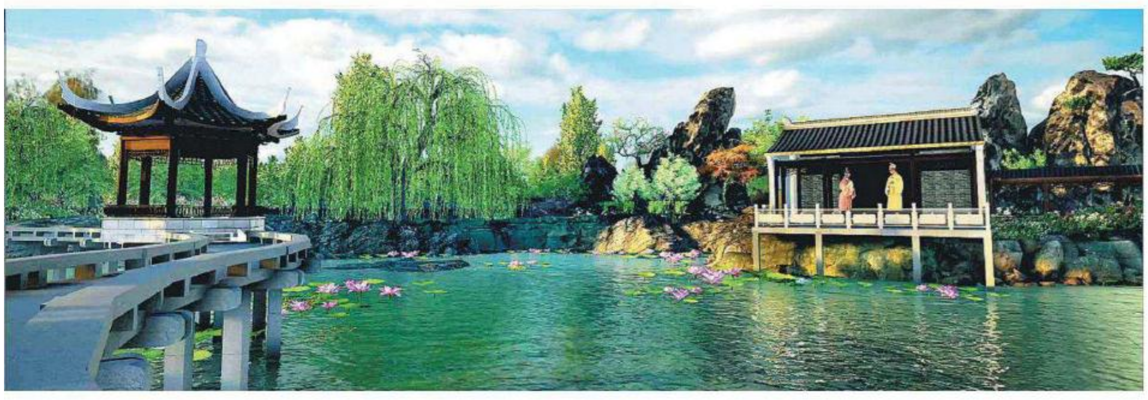
"I like it very much. I am drinking it every day," Suleymanov said, adding that he cherishes his time in Chengdu very much, and will visit Chengdu again in the future.

As a place endowed with a civilization of more than 4,500 years and a city construction history of more than 2,300 years, Chengdu is home to a batch of world natural and cultural heritage sites including the Qingcheng Mountain, Dujiangyan and the giant panda habitats, historical sites such as the Jinsha Site, Chengdu Wuhou Shrine and Du Fu Thatched Cottage, as well as intangible cultural heritage including lacquerware, Shu brocade and Shu embroidery.

During the Chengdu Universiade, athletes and guests from all over the world will be able to experience the charm of Tianfu culture while participating in and watching the games.

The Universiade Village will also carry out a series of cultural activities to create a grand cultural exchange platform for young people.

— YUAN SHENGGAO



A re-created garden in *The Peony Pavilion* with virtual-reality technology. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Kunqu comes alive

Top: Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe presents *The Peony Pavilion* in Beijing in March. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY
Above: Two Kunqu actresses perform in a classical garden to offer audiences an immersive experience.
SUN JIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

In 2001, when Kunqu Opera was listed as one of the masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity by UNESCO, Yang Fengyi, artistic director and head of the Northern Kunqu Opera Theater, traveled with her performers to the UNESCO headquarters in Paris to witness the historic moment.

They demonstrated the ancient art form through a short performance. One of the actresses received a note from an audience member after the show, telling her how beautiful she was onstage and how beautiful Kunqu Opera was.

"It was a very touching gesture," Yang said. "Despite the language barrier and cultural differences, the audience appreciated the art form. The reception it got showed us that contemporary audiences can enjoy the art form even though it is about 600 years old."

In 2008 UNESCO inscribed Kunqu Opera on the representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Kunqu Opera, one of the oldest traditional opera forms still performed in China, was born in the region of Kunshan in what is today's Suzhou, Jiangsu province. It has distinguished itself by the virtuosity of its rhythmic patterns and has exerted a strong influence on all the more recent forms of opera in China, such as Peking Opera.

Combining songs performed in the Suzhou dialect, graceful body movements, martial arts and dance, Kunqu Opera uses a seemingly endless variety of gestures to express specific emotions.

Like many traditional Chinese art forms, Kunqu Opera has faced competition from mass culture and a lack of interest among young people, but the recognition by UNESCO put Kunqu Opera in the international spotlight at the same time as it began to experience a domestic revival.

"Of all the rich and diverse traditions of Chinese opera, Kunqu Opera is one of the most beautiful and best-known among Chinese audiences," said Fu Jin, a professor at the National Academy of Chinese Theater Arts in Beijing. "It includes many aspects of traditional Chinese culture such as philosophy, religion, social values and lifestyle."

Kunqu Opera pieces are closely linked with Chinese literature, Fu said. For example, one of the best-known and most-performed pieces is *The Peony Pavilion*, written by the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) playwright Tang Xianzu, who is often compared to William Shakespeare.

What excites Fu is that Kunqu Opera has been attracting a growing young audience that sees the art form as deep, elegant and sophisticated.

A youth version of *The Peony Pavilion*, the fruit of a collaboration between Suzhou Kunqu Opera Theater and the Chinese American writer Kenneth Hsien-yung Pai, is considered another major contributor to the development and revival of the art form.

The production premiered in 2003 and has made a big mark, having been performed more than 400 times in the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macao, as well as in countries such as Greece, the United Kingdom and the United States, and seen by a combined worldwide audience of about 800,000. Thanks to shows staged at universities across the country at that time, Kunqu Opera became very popular, especially among young people.

"Since the beginning of the 21st century, Kunqu Opera had faced a decline, with veteran Kunqu Opera performers retiring, audiences aging and fewer young people willing to learn and enjoy the old art," Pai, 85, said. "I am a big fan of Kunqu Opera and I was worried."

The performers in the 2003 version of *The Peony Pavilion* were all in their early 20s, and 70% of the audience consisted of young people, he said.

"That was a very promising sign, and I was very happy."

A recent production of *The Peony Pavilion* by the Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe, with 55 acts spanning eight hours, has also made headlines. From March 8 to 10, the production was staged at the China National Opera House in Beijing, with tickets selling out in a few days.

It was the first time that the renowned Shanghai company had presented *The Peony Pavilion* in its entirety.

Hu Weilu, an actress in her early 30s, plays the leading role in the show. "When I started my training as a Kunqu Opera performer in 1999, there were few shows and few people in the audiences," she said.

"I performed whenever I could, paid or not, hoping that one day I could experience the real stage. Now we have many fans. Some are extraordinarily enthusiastic, having their photos taken with us and following us as we tour the country."

Fang Qian, 20, who studies world history at Capital Normal University, is a big fan of Kunqu Opera.

Since watching her first Kunqu Opera performance in 2018, Fang, who was born and raised in Beijing, has learned about Kunqu Opera and has been an enthusiastic promoter of the art form among friends.

"Kunqu Opera is like a seed that has been planted," she said. "The more I learn about it, the more I expand my knowledge about other aspects of traditional Chinese culture, such as literature, calligraphy, music and painting. It's like a full circle, allowing me to explore the roots of my culture."

— CHEN NAN

Online
Watch the video by scanning the code.

Pioneering spirit

A renowned artist and educator in the San Francisco Bay Area will be remembered as a pioneer in art exchanges between the United States and China, and his legacy is expected to continue inspiring collaboration between the two countries.

Fred Martin (1927-2022) was a professor at the San Francisco Art Institute for more than 50 years and an important figure in American modernist abstract painting.

While serving as dean of academic affairs, Martin initiated the first art exchange program between the U.S. and China in the 1980s. During his career he contributed to the training of art talent in China as well as the research and development of Chinese contemporary art.

In memory of his contributions, an exhibition titled *Lifetime of Devotion: The Art of Fred Martin* was held at the Silicon Valley Asian Art Center in Santa Clara, California. The exhibition ran through to March 8 and featured about 30 paintings by the artist.

> "Maintaining these collaborations, such as between the art and scientific communities of China and the U.S., is very important. I hope these collaborations continue because they produce wonderful art and scientific breakthroughs."
> **FREDERICA MARTIN**

"The artistic connection between East and West was an important part of Fred's life," said Michael Grady, a former colleague of Martin and a professor of studio arts at Appalachian State University, in Boone, North Carolina.

"There was a deep connection, a mutual recognition between Fred and the entire culture of China. His use of nature-based abstraction and handwritten text and his preference for artworks made of paint on paper was recognized by Chinese artists and scholars as they share a common source of inspiration from both classical and contemporary Chinese art."

Ren Min, former assistant to the president of the San Francisco Art Institute and director of the International MFA program at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, said:"Martin had a strong interest in Confucian culture from a young age, and his works showed elements of Chinese culture, such as the use of ink."

Martin began chaperoning faculty, staff and students from the art institute on trips to China as early as in 1986, making the school one of the first Western art institutes to have exchange programs with China since the country's reform and opening-up started in 1978.

In subsequent years Martin and his colleagues and students visited China to study Chinese culture and art, and gave lectures and held exhibitions. In return, the art institute has received and helped educate many famous Chinese artists over the past 30 years.

"Many Chinese artists have come to San Francisco for further studies thanks to Fred's efforts," said Ren, who arrived in San Francisco as an MFA student in 1987.

"Some students, including me, lived in Fred's home when we first arrived in the U.S. He was like a father for us."

From 1988 to 2017 Martin held several solo exhibitions at universities and museums in Shanghai, Jinan, Hangzhou, Shenyang and other Chinese cities.

At the age of 90 Martin donated 36 manuscripts and pieces of art to the China Academy of Art, the fruit of a nearly 70-year artistic career.

"Fred seemed to be accepted by the Chinese art community in a way that foreigners seldom achieve or even understand," Grady said. "Being a literati artist is a highly revered status in Chinese culture."

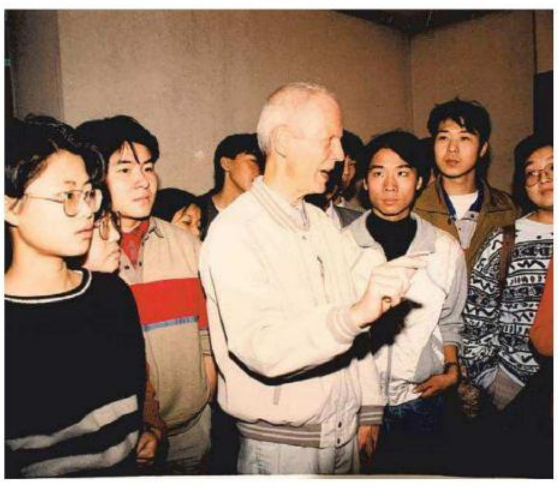
Frederica Martin, Martin's daughter, recalled the days when her father launched the first exchange program: "It was wonderful collaboration and communication between the art community of China and the U.S.

"Over the years I remember father talking about how China had changed so much since he first started going there. During his last visit he got to tour five different art academies in China, and he was so impressed with the investment China was making in art education."

As a scientist, Frederica Martin said, she understands how crucial educational investment and international collaboration is.

"Maintaining these collaborations, such as between the art and scientific communities of China and the U.S., is very important. I hope these collaborations continue because they produce wonderful art and scientific breakthroughs."

— LIA ZHU



The artist and educator Fred Martin was among a group of students at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, in 1988. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

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Parade

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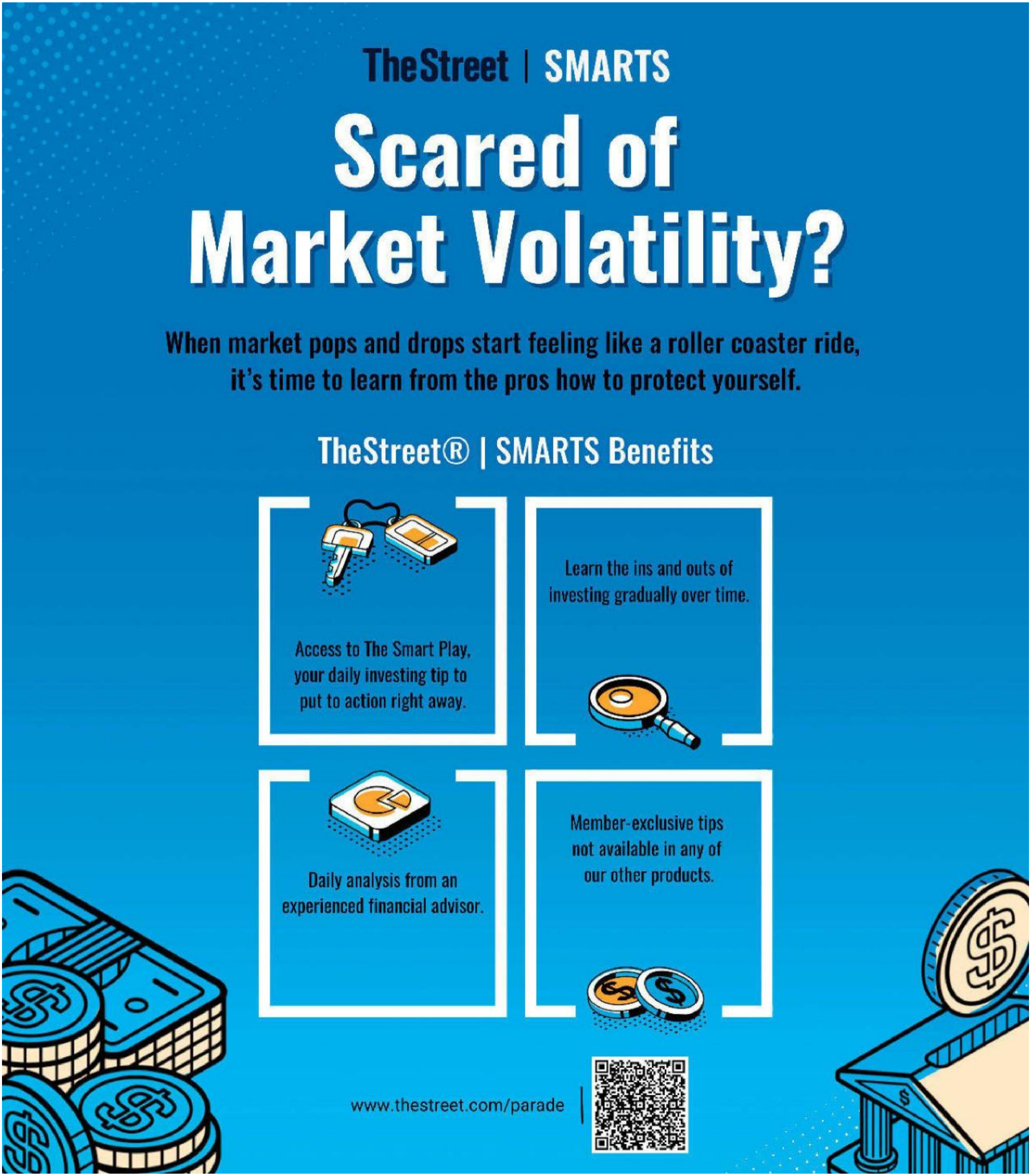
PLUS
The stories
behind his most
popular songs

Willie NELSON Turns 90

"I'll be one of the oldest bastards out there. But as long as people keep showing up, so will I"



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The Parade Don't Miss List

Here's what's on our radar for the week ahead. Go to ***Parade.com/entertainment*** for more.

HAPPY 90th CAROL!

From top: *The Carol Burnett Show*, *Better Call Saul*, *Omnibus*.

CAROL BURNETT: 90 YEARS OF LAUGHTER + LOVE

(APRIL 26 ON NBC)

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Laughter
1982
1986
1989
2016

Comedy icon Carol Burnett celebrates her 90th birthday with a two-hour special featuring an A-list of musical performances—Bernadette Peters, Kristin Chenoweth, Billy Porter, Jane Lynch, Katy Perry, Darren Criss, Sutton Foster—and special guests who will pay tribute to the six-time Emmy winner.

This once-in-a-lifetime party for the cherished comedienne has a guest list that includes Allison Janney, Aileen Quinn, Amy Poehler, Bob Mackie, Bob Odenkirk, Charlize Theron, Cher, Ellen DeGeneres, Julie Andrews, Kristen Wiig, Laura Dern, Lily Tomlin, Lisa Kudrow, Marisa Tomei, Maya Rudolph, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Sofia Vergara, Steve Carell, Susan Lucci and Vicki Lawrence.

"There were no balloons, cakes, confetti or any of that. I didn't want it," Burnett says. "It was a variety show with live entertainment." The special will share some of the funniest and most memorable moments of Burnett's legendary career, from her Broadway debut in *Once Upon a Mattress* to highlights from her acclaimed, long-running sketch comedy series.

"It was a retrospective of stuff that I'd done all these years, starting back when I was on *Omnibus* with Leonard Bernstein," Burnett adds. "And then to do the movies that I did, the television specials, the musical specials, and of course *The Carol Burnett Show*, and clips from *Better Call Saul* and *Palm Royale*." On looking back now that she's reached the milestone birthday, Burnett says she hopes that her legacy is: "I made people laugh, made them feel good when they might have been down."

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: CHRIS HASTON/NBC; EVERETT; ABC/EVERETT; GREG LEWIS/AMC/EVERETT

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WALTER SCOTT'S **Personality** Parade

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WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

HANNAH WADDINGHAM

The *Ted Lasso* and *Game of Thrones* star, 48, takes on a classic when she steps into the role of the iconic temptress Lady Bellaston in *Masterpiece*'s four-part adaptation of Henry Fielding's ***Tom Jones*** **(April 30 on PBS)**. The romantic comedy gets a more modern take in this adaptation of life in mid-18th-century England with all its passion and prejudice, luxury and loose morals.

What does Lady Bellaston want with Tom in the first place? At first, it's her age-old predatory nature. She was married to a very old man, Lord Bellaston, previously, because you were meant to marry into wealth. But she likes playthings. I think she intends to have Tom as a plaything, but then, unfortunately, falls for him properly.

It did seem as if the relationship changed, as if he actually did hurt her. That was surprising. That is what I was interested in playing. She is surprised. He's the first-ever person who's derailed her and then rejected her, which is a horrific, potent combination.

But does she really learn anything in the end? She's learned to keep it a bit frivolous and lighthearted and not let her heart be broken again. [Not to] let someone in too much.

You always look smashing on the red carpet, so is the wardrobe part of the appeal of making a period piece? I had never done a period piece. I've worn things like that on stage, but I felt like I was melding together my two worlds doing this. I knew that the costume department, the hair and makeup department and the director were outstanding. The pale blue costume that I wore honestly nearly made me faint one day, because they made them so historically correct. That one in particular may look all pretty and powdery, but I was playing a scene sitting down with our lovely foppish character, and he said, "Hannah, are you OK? The blood's just drained straight from your face." I joked, "Well, I'm not standing. I'm already sitting down, so I'm sure I'll be fine," and then I keeled over to the left. They had to cut swathes of material out of it to take some of the weight off my spine.

What would you miss about playing Rebecca Welton if the third season of *Ted Lasso* is its last? My heart feels heavy just thinking about it. It's unfathomable to me because, as I was saying to somebody the other day, I will see all my fellow castmates for the rest of our lives but if I stop [playing Rebecca], I'll never see *her* again. I find it very difficult because she and I have helped each other out over the last few years. She's been a great focus to

Would you say that this is a more female-skewed version of *Tom Jones* because we see him through the eyes of all these women? Yes, our director Georgia Parris is extremely clever to have drawn out that side. Really clever, and it's something that I don't think any adaptation has ever done before. She's a staunch feminist herself. It's why I wanted to get involved with this because she assured me that it wouldn't be a generic retelling.

FROM TOP: CINDY ORD/GETTY IMAGES FOR SIRIUSXM; STEFFAN HILL/MASTERPIECE/PBS

me at certain times, and I take very seriously her age, where she is in her life, the responsibility of playing somebody who is childless and who desperately doesn't want to be that way. I take responsibility not just as a woman but as a human being that finds themselves divorced. I find the responsibility of portraying somebody that a man and a woman could watch and go, "Yeah, I've lived that and it's OK."

Would you say Rebecca is a little softer in season three and a little more approachable? Yes, as Ted would say, her fences have come down, but they'll go up again. Wait.

In real life, are you into football or, as we Americans call it, soccer? I couldn't be less into football. My two greatest acting achievements are making anyone think I know anything about football and making anyone think that those season one biscuits tasted nice.

You had an entire career, including a season on *Game of Thrones*, before *Ted Lasso* brought you "overnight" fame. What has that been like? I think the biggest thing is I can't walk down the street here in New York without being stopped every two seconds. I don't think I would have been able to cope with that had I not been the age I am, with the experience I have, and it doesn't go to my head because I know that I've worked hard, and I know that I am just extremely lucky to be in a beautifully crafted show. I was very much right place, right time. I think if it happened to a 20-year-old, it might go to their head and they would think this is normal, but like you say, an overnight success after 23 years, it's in safe hands.

Your *Tom Jones* cast members talked about how you break into song on set. Do you miss your theater days and singing? I do miss it. It's my life's blood, undeniably. But I'm very pleased where my career is going at the moment.

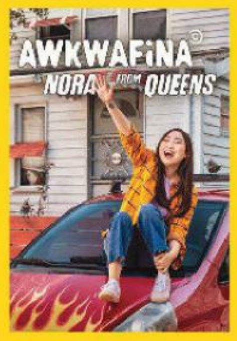
Can you share what your next project is? I shot *The Fall Guy* in Australia with Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt. That was great fun. Again, a very different character for me. I like taking things, as I did in theater, that stretch me and I'm almost unrecognizable in *The Fall Guy*. P

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: APPLE TV+; COMEDY CENTRAL; DANA HAWLEY/LIONSGATE; BETTMANN/GETTY IMAGES

AWKWAFINA IS NORA FROM QUEENS

(APRIL 26 ON COMEDY CENTRAL)

Nora Lum (Awkwafina) is really, really, really trying to be an adult this time around as she explores themes of identity and success in season 3, and the results speak for themselves. The series was inspired by the *Crazy Rich Asians* star's real-life upbringing. In it, the fictionalized version of Nora navigates young adulthood in Flushing, N.Y., with help from her dad (BD Wong), her grandmother (Lori Tan Chinn) and her cousin Edmund (Bowen Yang).



Jennifer Esposito will be joining season 3 in a recurring role, along with an impressive list of guest stars including Michael Bolton, Janeane Garafalo, Gina Gershon, Ken Jeong, Frankie Muniz, and Jai Rodriguez among others.

"We're doing all kinds of things this season," says Awkwafina, 34, who will make her directorial debut. "It could be our last season, so in that way, we really wanted to end it in a place that would make people feel good."

ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET

(APRIL 28 IN THEATERS)

Kathy Bates, 74, gets grandmotherly in the movie interpretation of Judy Blume's beloved book. It stars **Abby Ryder Fortson** as 11-year-old Margaret, who, after a move from New York to New Jersey, has to rely on her mother, Barbara (Rachel McAdams), and her adoring grandmother, Sylvia (Bates), to help her survive all the drama of puberty. Here are some fun facts about the Oscar winner.

▶ As a struggling actor, she worked as a singing waitress at a Catskills restaurant.

PLAYBILL
Goodbye Fidel

◀ Bates made her Broadway debut in 1980 in *Goodbye Fidel*.

▶ She has directed several critically acclaimed TV series, including *NYPD Blue*, *Homicide: Life on the Street*, *Six Feet Under*, *Oz* and *Everwood*.

▶ She played an attorney in *Harry's Law*, and she's been cast as one again in the CBS pilot reboot of the gender-swapped *Matlock*, taking over the role made famous by Andy Griffith.

▶ Her Oscar-winning role as Annie Wilkes in *Misery* was ranked No. 17 on the villain side of the American Film Institute's "100 Years...100 Heroes and Villains" list.

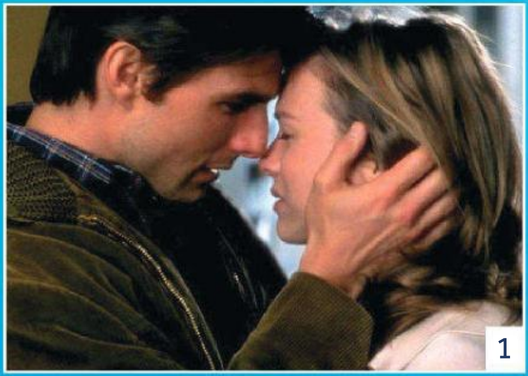
▶ She was the first woman to win an Academy Award for Best Actress in a horror film—and the *only* actor to ever win for a Stephen King movie.

Are you a fan of Judy Blume? Go to ***Parade.com/blume*** for more.

Parade Quiz

CAN YOU NAME IT?

There are some quotes that you immediately associate with a certain character, show or movie. Take, for example, "I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse," "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" or "Nobody puts Baby in a corner." (*The Godfather*, *Gone With the Wind* and *Dirty Dancing*, of course.) If you knew those, get ready to tackle the "Famous Quote" edition of our *Can You Name It?* quiz. Match the photo of the movie or show with the quote. **Answers are on page 18.**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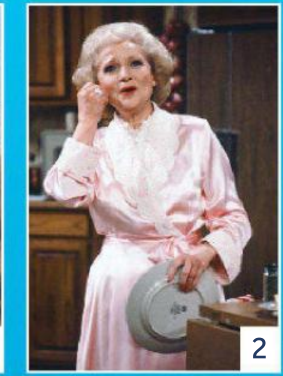
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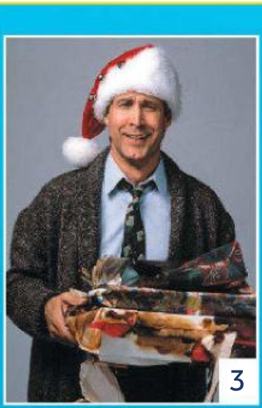
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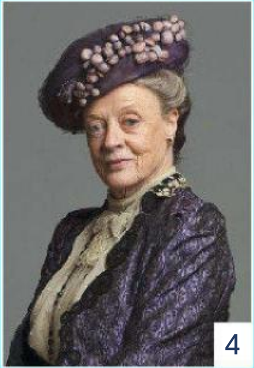
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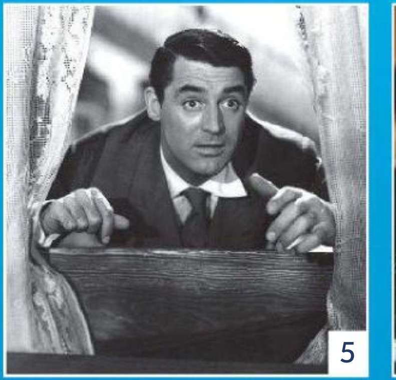
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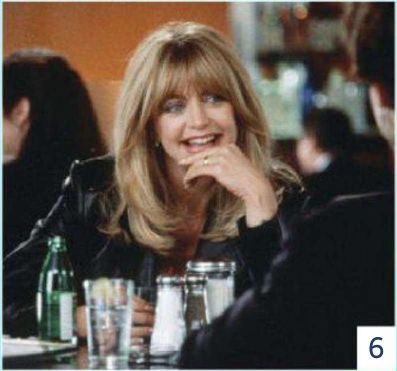
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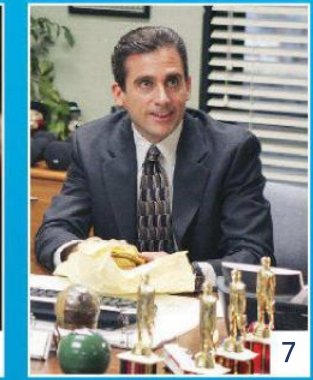
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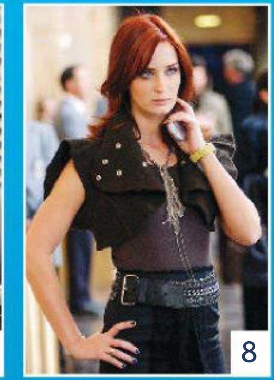
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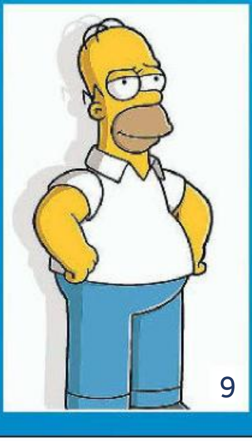
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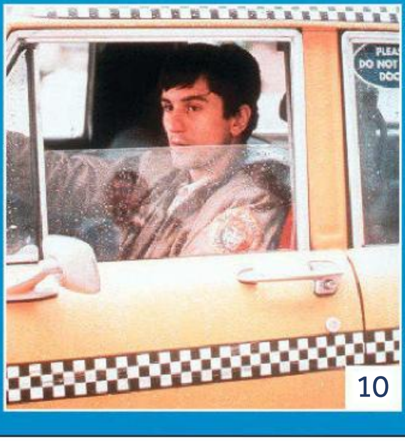
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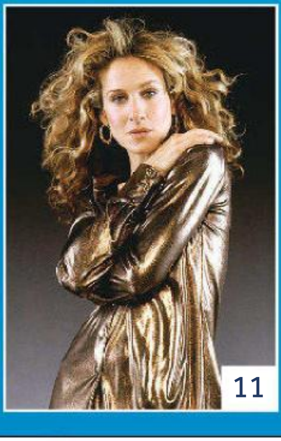
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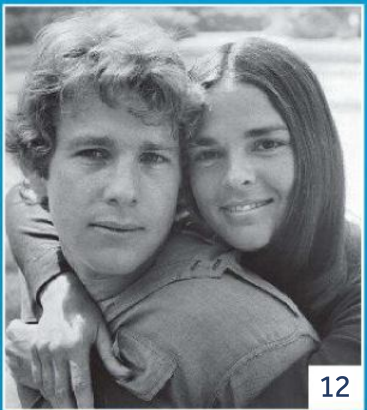
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1-PICTORIAL PRESS LTD/ALAMY; 2-ALICE S. HALL/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; 3-PICTURELUX/THE HOLLYWOOD ARCHIVE/ALAMY; 4-CARNIVAL FILMS/ALAMY; 5-PHOTO 12/ALAMY; 6-CINEMATIC COLLECTION/ALAMY; 7-JUSTIN LUBIN/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; 8-ZUMA PRESS, INC./ALAMY; 9-MAXIMUM FILM/ALAMY; 10-FILMPUBLICITYARCHIVE/UNITED ARCHIVES VIA GETTY IMAGES; 11- HBO/NEWSMAKERS/GETTY IMAGES; 12- PARAMOUNT/GETTY IMAGES

Go to ***Parade.com/funny-quotes*** for more laughs.

A.
"I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS, BUT I'M A LITTLE STITIOUS."

B. "Insanity runs in my family. It practically gallops."

C.
"YOU TALKIN' TO ME?"

D.
"YOU HAD ME AT 'HELLO.'"

E.
"I'm just one stomach flu away from my goal weight."

F.
"MY MOTHER ALWAYS USED TO SAY: 'THE OLDER YOU GET, THE BETTER YOU GET. UNLESS YOU'RE A BANANA.'"

G. "If I woke up tomorrow with my head sewn to the carpet, I wouldn't be more surprised than I am right now."

H. "There's nothing simpler than avoiding people you don't like. Avoiding one's friends—that's the real test."

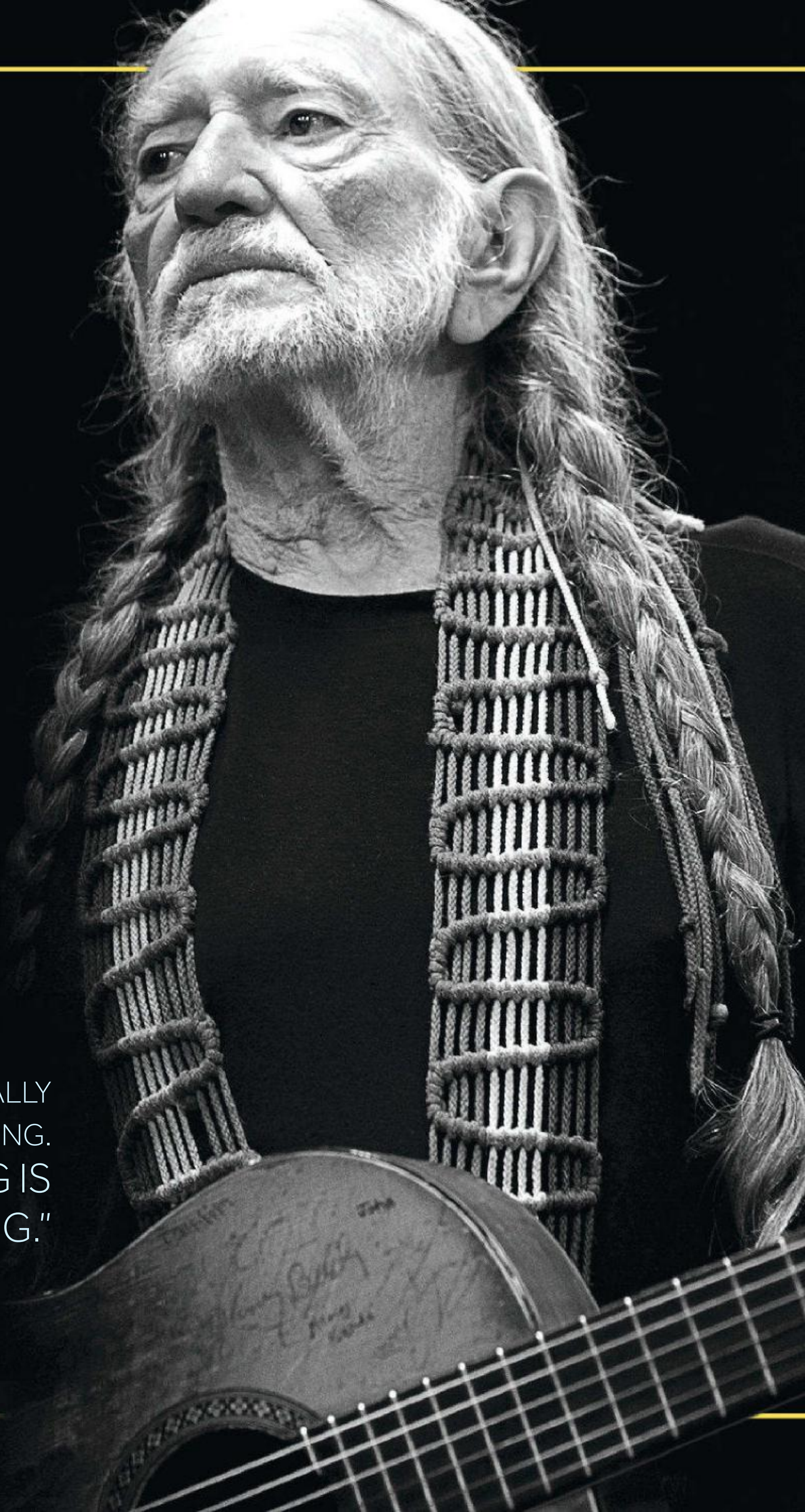
I.
"There are only three ages for a woman in Hollywood: babe, district attorney and *Driving Miss Daisy*."

J.
"LOVE MEANS NEVER HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY."

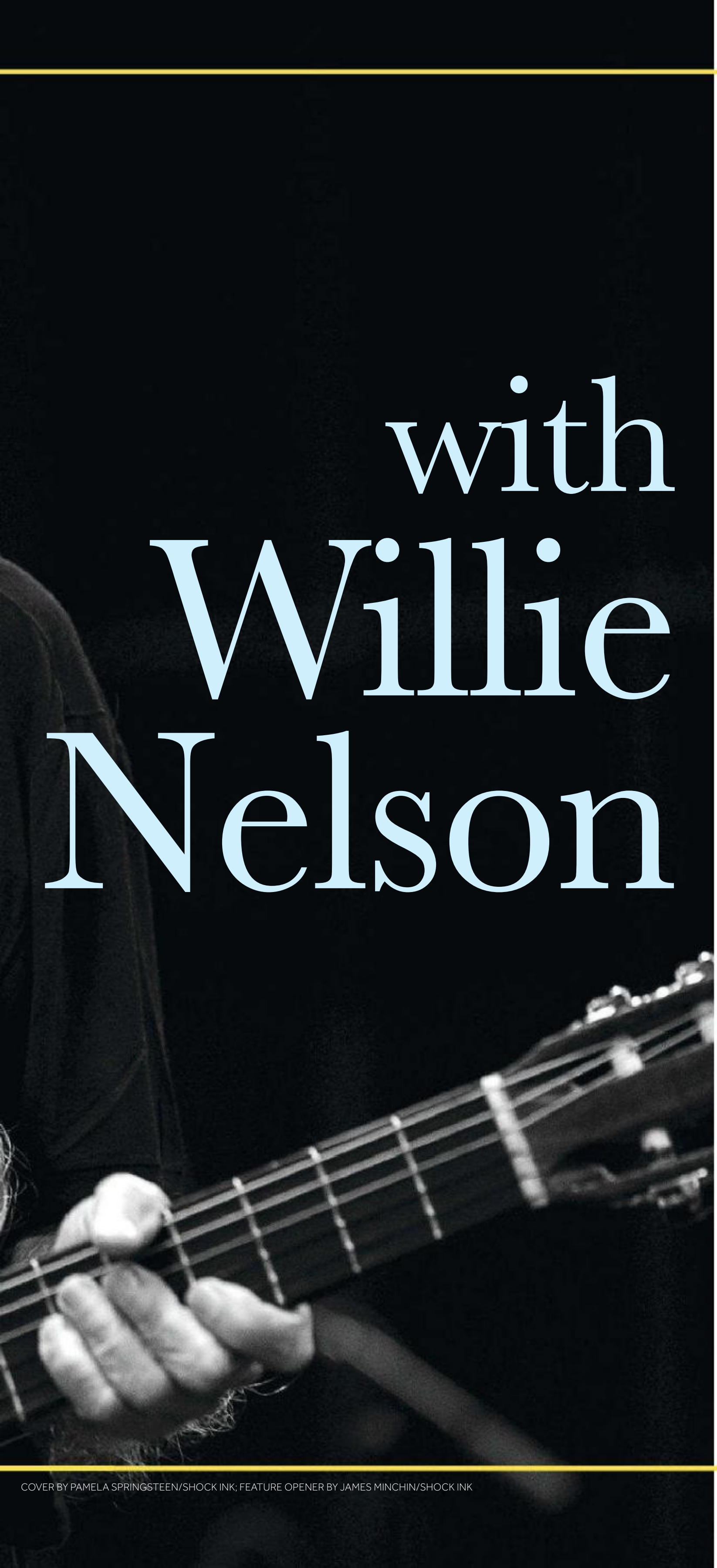
K.
"TRYING IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD FAILURE."

L.
"I like my money right where I can see it: hanging in my closet."

On the Road Again



"I'VE SUNG PRACTICALLY EVERY KIND OF THING. A GOOD SONG IS A GOOD SONG."



with Willie Nelson

Never one to sit still long, the singer-songwriter takes a moment to tell *Parade* about his new tour, turning 90 and the stories behind some of his favorite songs. **BY JIM FARBER**

Willie Nelson has a simple motto that speaks volumes about the life he's leading right now. "You have to do something every day to pay for the day," he says. "You need to run, walk, swim, sing; whatever it is that's important to you, you have to do it and then see how long you can keep doing it."

If anything, Nelson has overperformed on that philosophy of late. At the moment, he doesn't just have one thing going on that gives him a sense of purpose, he seemingly has 100. In the months leading up to the day when he'll hit the great age of 90—April 29—Nelson picked up another two Grammy awards, including one for a song cheekily titled "Live Forever." He also finished recording an album that will bring his studio work to a staggering 100 releases, 14 of which he created in the last decade alone. He also found out that he was nominated to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in a ceremony to be held in New York later this year. And he made good on one of his most famous song titles, "On the Road Again," by kicking off a new tour that will take him straight through the summer in a schedule packed enough to exhaust someone half his age.

Then there's the jewel in this crown of honors and events—a pair of concerts to be held over his birthday weekend at the Hollywood Bowl. They will feature more than 30 guest stars including Neil Young, Norah Jones, Miranda Lambert, Tom Jones, Sheryl Crow and an artist who shares Nelson's reputation as one of the world's most famous potheads: Snoop Dog. Still, when the man himself is asked about his big bash, he just shrugs and says, "That was more other people's idea than mine. It's kinda gotten out of hand. I don't know how many people are coming at this point. I just hope to get to sing something with all of them."

continued on page 10

COVER BY PAMELA SPRINGSTEEN/SHOCK INK; FEATURE OPENER BY JAMES MINCHIN/SHOCK INK

from page 9

Nelson's eagerness to remain furiously engaged has a physical as well as a psychological reward. "Your lungs are the biggest muscle you have," he says, "so it's healthy for me to sing."

More, he adds, "I get really bored when I'm not working."

To alleviate that, Nelson cut two albums in the last year, one dedicated to bluegrass music, which will come out later in 2023. The other, released last month, honors the work of one of the rare artists who can be considered as accomplished and prolific a songwriter as Nelson—the late country legend Harlan Howard. "His songs are standards," Nelson says. "Something like 'Busted' (which has been recorded by stars from Johnny Cash to Ray Charles)—everybody in the world has heard that one."

The two songwriters were also close friends. "When Harlan passed away [in 2002], his family sent me his ashes," Nelson says. "I'd had 'em stored up in a place where I thought they were safe. But then a storm came through and blew 'em all over," Nelson says with a mischievous laugh.

His songs have long displayed a streak of black humor, particularly when it comes to the subject of death. If anything, that has increased in the last decade. In 2018, he wrote the lyric "Heaven is closed and hell's overcrowded/So I think I'll just stay where I am." That same year, he wrote, "I don't want to be the last man standing/On second thought, maybe I do."

Nelson says he often writes about mortality for two reasons: First, it's a meaty subject. Second, he says, "I've had friends come and go over the years. You start to think about what it all means. I'm a believer in reincarnation."

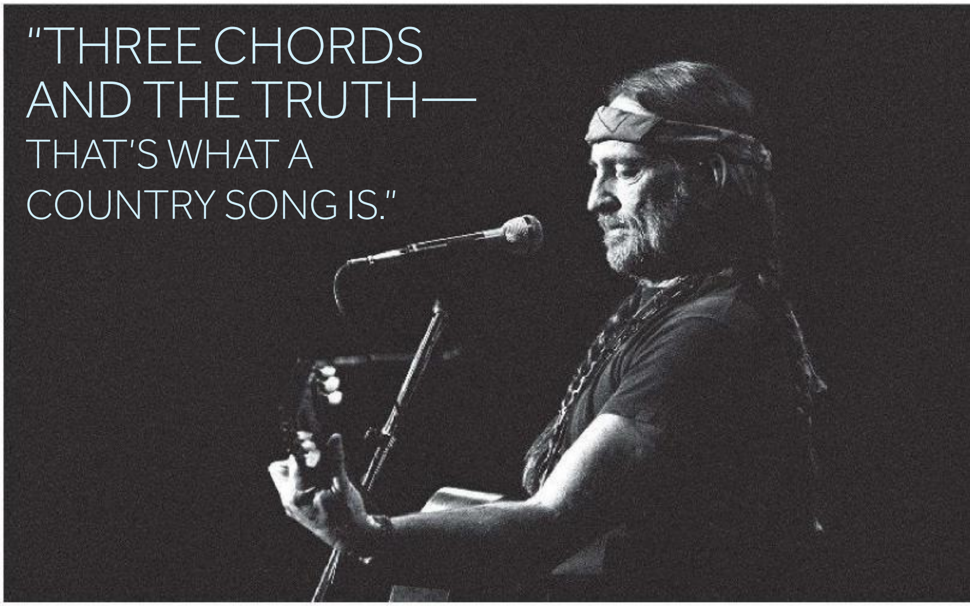
Still, there was a death in the past year that hit Nelson especially hard. His older sister, Bobbie Nelson, with whom he had been exceptionally close since childhood and who played in his band since the early '70s, died at the age of 91. "She was incredible," Nelson says. "I learned a whole lot about what I do just by sitting on the piano stool next to her when I was 7 or 8 years old, trying to do what she's doing and never being able to do it as well as she could. She could read and write music and was a better musician than me."

Nelson had his own health scare last year—from COVID. "I almost died," he says, obviously still rattled by the experience. "It's bad stuff."

Yet, two weeks after he recovered, he was on the road, playing outdoor venues to stay safe. Being unable to tour for the major portion of the pandemic was hard on all musicians but for Nelson it was sheer torture. He longed so hard to return to the road that at times he would look longingly at his tour bus sidelined at his home near Austin. "I'd go out there and sit on it sometimes," he says. "It's where I feel comfortable."

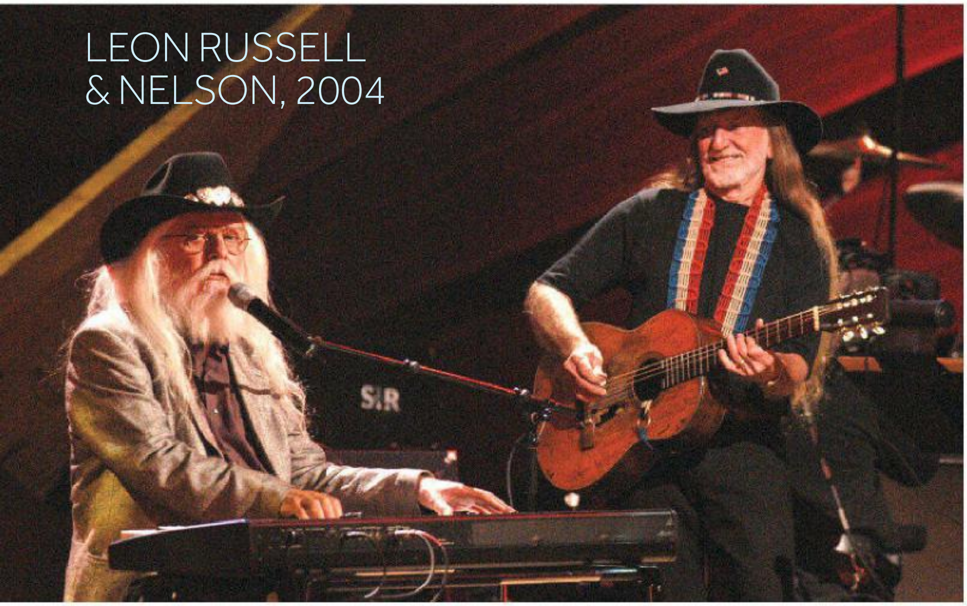
Nelson's lifelong dedication to work

A TEENAGE WILLIE


"THREE CHORDS AND THE TRUTH—THAT'S WHAT A COUNTRY SONG IS."

FROM LEFT: MONDADORI PORTFOLIO/ARCHIVIO GBB/EVERETT; JAY DICKMAN/CORBIS/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES

doesn't just explain his creative longevity but also how he broke through in the first place. Born during the Great Depression in 1933, Nelson had been writing songs since he was 10 and peddling them since he was a teenager. Still, he didn't get any real exposure of his work until his 30s, initially through cover versions of his compositions by well-established stars like Roy Orbison, Patsy Cline and Ray Price. He didn't become a superstar—as a performer in his own right, as well as a presence beyond the country music world—until he was in his 40s, starting with albums like "Red Headed Stranger" in 1975. "Honestly, I wondered what the hell kept it from happening so long!" he says, with a laugh.


LEON RUSSELL & NELSON, 2004

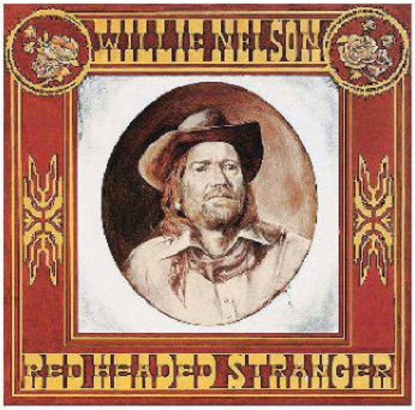
STEPHEN LOVEKIN/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES

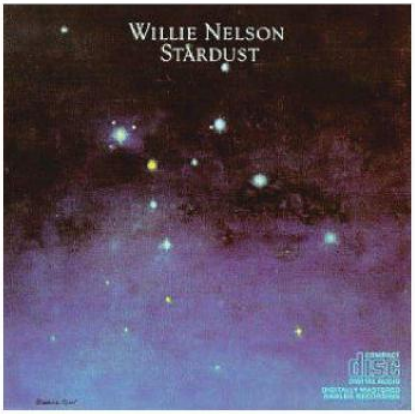
The fact that he never stuck to one genre helped Nelson establish, and maintain, an incredibly broad audience over the years. His top-selling album, "Stardust," in 1978, was a collection of standards featuring classics by writers like Irving Berlin and George Gershwin. "I've sung practically every kind of thing," Nelson says. "A good song is a good song."

His connection to the rock 'n' roll sensibility, and, thus, to its mass audience, got a major boost from his friendship with the late Leon Russell. Leon was the one who helped inspire Nelson to hone his outlaw character, a persona that both expressed his dislike for the conventions of the Nashville music scene and dovetailed perfectly with rock 'n' roll's rebellious nature. The two stars even recorded an album together in 1979, "One for The Road" that went gold. "Leon was incredibly important to me," Nelson says. "He was the best entertainer I'd ever seen. He was also the first guy I ever saw throw his hat to the audience. I stole that idea from him right away!"

Despite the connection, Nelson was surprised when he was told he was nominated to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. "It knocks me out," he says. "That they even know who I am is fantastic to me."

His possible entry into the Hall will be the final triumph in this momentous, 90th year. At the same time, Nelson says his age in no way intimidates him. "Norman Lear is a good friend of mine and he just turned 100," Nelson points out. "I was telling him, 'Norman, I heard that age ain't nothing but a number, am I right?' He said, 'Yeah, it's just that.' And that's good enough for me."





"I'll be one of the oldest bastards out there," Nelson adds with a cackle. "But as long as people keep showing up, so will I."

continued on page 12

from page 11

THE STORIES BEHIND THE SONGS

In his long career (with 56 Grammy nominations and 12 wins), **Willie Nelson** has either written, or co-written, more than 300 songs. Some of the tracks he's best known for he didn't write, including "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" and "Whiskey River" (which always opens his concerts). But many more of his classics came from his own pen. Here are the stories behind half a dozen of his most indelible creations.

"CRAZY"

The beauty of Nelson's "Crazy" may seem obvious now. But he initially had trouble finding anyone to sing it due to the complexity of its melody. Even Patsy Cline, who would make it iconic, initially wasn't hot on Nelson's compositions, having earlier rejected his song "Night Life." It was Cline's husband, Charlie Dick, who connected her to "Crazy."

PATSY
CLINE

"Charlie heard me singing [a demo] of the song on the jukebox at Tootsie's [a famous lounge] in Nashville," Nelson recalls. The songwriter had been drinking at the club that night when Dick said to him, "Patsy has got to hear this song. It was about midnight, so I said, 'We can't go over there now,'" Nelson says. "He said, 'Yes we can!' So, we went and woke her up and he had me sing her that song. She cut it the very next day in one take."

The origin of the song's connection to Cline on a jukebox wound up becoming prophetic. Her version of "Crazy" wound up becoming the most popular jukebox selection of all time.

AL GREEN & NELSON, 2003

"FUNNY HOW TIME SLIPS AWAY" AND "NIGHT LIFE"

Nelson may be known for writing fast, but he never experienced a more furious, or inspired, frenzy of creativity than during a single week in 1960. In that tight time frame, he wrote "Funny How Time Slips Away" and "Night Life," as well as "Crazy." "I wrote 'em all on a drive from Austin to Nashville," he remembers. "I just got on a kick. I've always noticed that when I'm out driving on the highway, I get my mind cleared and the writing becomes easy. I just have to hope I can remember it until I get home!"

"Funny" stands out in Nelson's catalogue for its R&B groove. "There's definitely blues in there," he says. Small wonder the star, who had the biggest hit with it was soul legend Al Green, who took it to No. 10 in 1973. The Spinners also cut a take that made waves on the soul chart. The tune in "Night Life" also attracted important R&B artists. Though it first became a hit for country star Ray Price in 1963, it later became a signature song for B.B. King and a cherished cover by both Marvin Gaye and Aretha Franklin. In all, more than 100 artists have recorded the song, though Nelson got almost nothing from the publishing. During a flat-broke period in his life, he sold it to musician Paul Buskirk for $150.

PHOTO CREDIT FROM LEFT: GAB ARCHIVE/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; M. CAULFIELD/ WIREIMAGE FOR NBC/GETTY IMAGES

"ON THE ROAD AGAIN"

Nelson wrote the lyrics to one of his best-known songs on an airline sickness bag. He was on a plane with director Sydney Pollack, who produced the 1980 movie *Honeysuckle Rose*, in which Nelson starred, when Pollack asked him to write something for the project. He suggested making it a road song and Nelson wrote the resulting lyrics in minutes. He didn't come up with the music until months later, however. "I saw no reason to write a melody to something I wasn't ready to record," he wrote in his 1988 memoir, *Willie*. "I knew I wouldn't have any problem pulling the melody out of the air."

The result became a No. 1 country smash, a Top 20 pop hit and was nominated for a Best Song Oscar, though it lost to Irene Cara's "Fame."

JOEY FLOYD & NELSON IN *HONEYSUCKLE ROSE*, 1980

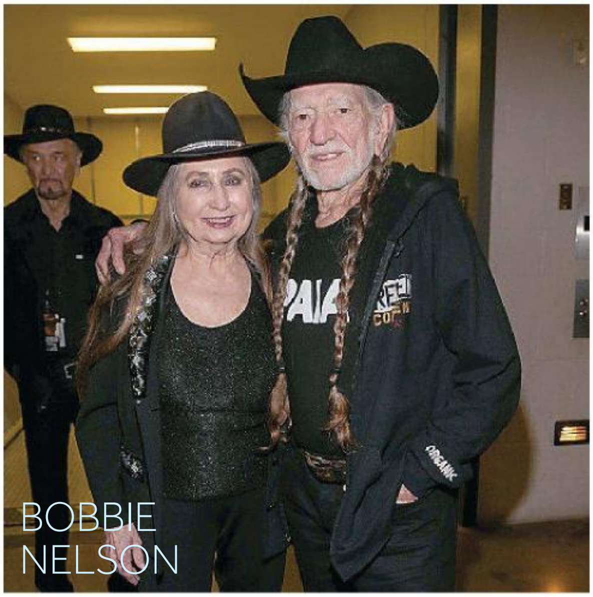
PICTURELUX/THE HOLLYWOOD ARCHIVE/ALAMY

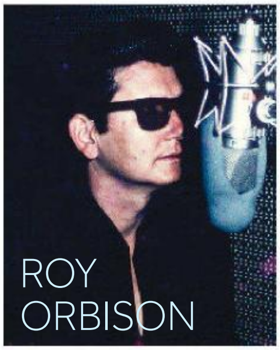
continued on page 14

from page 13

"PRETTY PAPER"

Every great songwriter pines to pen an enduring Christmas song. The one Willie Nelson wrote has resonated deeply enough to be recorded by a host of stars, from Roy Orbison to Glen Campbell to Dolly Parton. In 1963, Nelson was moved to write his holiday ode after witnessing a street vendor named Frankie Brierton selling colorful wrapping paper outside Leonard's Department Store in Fort Worth, Texas. Brierton had been stricken by spinal meningitis as a child and so had to crawl on his hands and knees to hawk his wares. Even so, he kept a positive attitude, which struck Nelson as a perfect embodiment of the holiday spirit. Orbison had the hit with the song, breaking the Top 20 in the U.S. and the Top 10 in the U.K. Nelson himself recorded it twice, first on a 1979 album named for the song, and then in 1997 on a collaborative album with his sister Bobbie, titled *Hill Country Christmas*.


BOBBIE NELSON


ROY ORBISON

DOLLY PARTON

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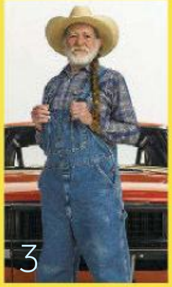
Music aside, Nelson has been in several movies, including **1. *The Electric Horseman*** (1979) with **Robert Redford**, **2. *Honeysuckle Rose*** (1980) with **Dyan Cannon** and Amy Irving, and **3. *The Dukes of Hazzard*** (2005). He's also played himself in *Swing Vote* (2008), *Zoolander 2* (2016) and many other shows and commercials.

In 1985, Nelson, **Neil Young** and **John Mellencamp** created **4. Farm Aid**—an annual music festival and fundraising effort that supports farmers in America.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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: TCD/PROD.DB/ALAMY; PICTURELUX/THE HOLLYWOOD ARCHIVE/ALAMY; BETTMANN/GETTY IMAGES; UNITED ARCHIVES GMBH/ALAMY; KATHERINE BOMBOY/NBC VIA GETTY IMAGES; R3/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; GARY MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

BOB DYLAN & NELSON, 2004

L. COHEN/WIREIMAGE FOR NBC UNIVERSAL/GETTY IMAGES

"ANGEL FLYING TOO CLOSE TO THE GROUND"

When *Parade* asked Nelson to name his favorite songs among all that he's written, he singled out two: "On the Road Again" and "Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground." "They feel good to sing," he says. "I look forward to doing those more than any others."

The latter has special meaning to him due to its pained lyrics, which chronicle a great loss of either love or life. At times, Nelson has pointedly used the song to express the latter. In various live shows, he has dedicated it to his son, Billy, who committed suicide in 1991. In fact, the song was written 10 years earlier for the *Honeysuckle Rose* movie soundtrack. It went on to become a No. 1 country hit, inspiring no less a bard than Bob Dylan to record his own version two years later.

Go to ***Parade.com/best-songs*** for more stories behind your favorite tunes.

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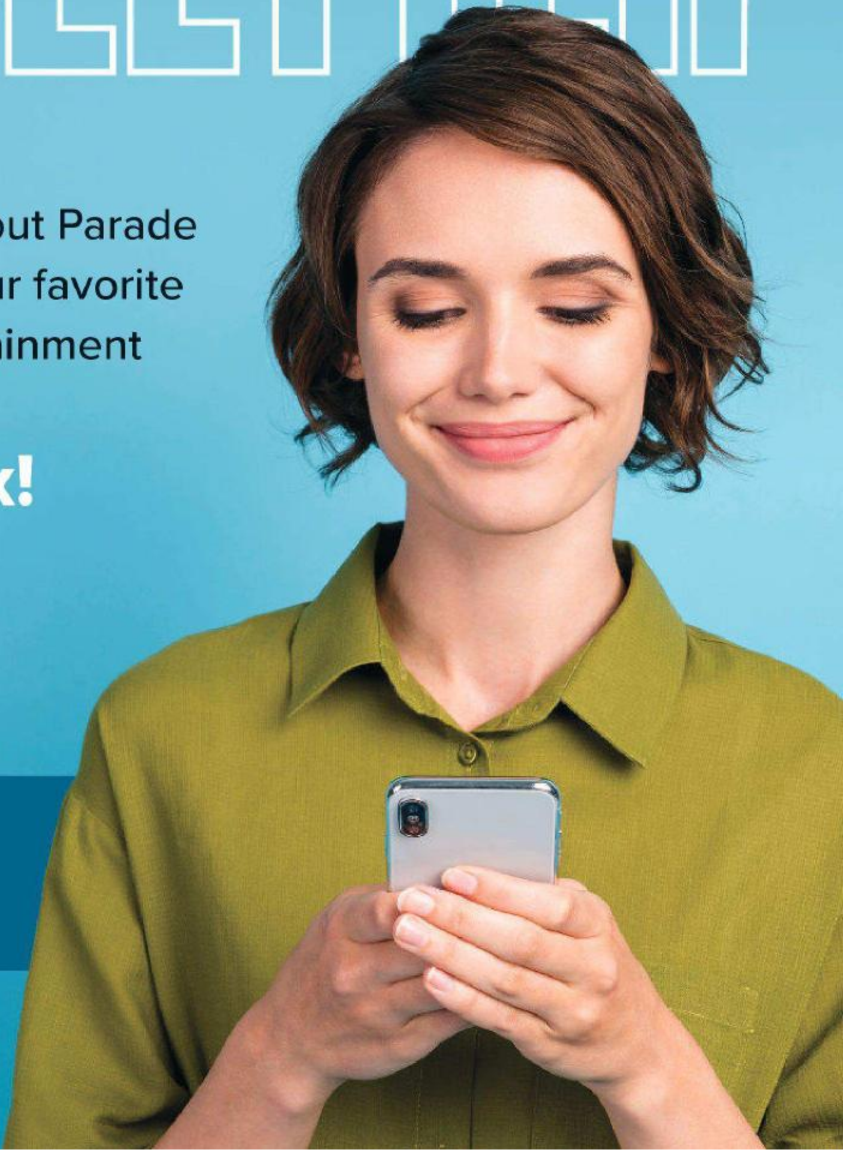

Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

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With all of the fine veterinary care, nutritious diets, routine exercise and so much love and companionship, why is it that the life expectancy of our feline and canine friends is not rising? Or is it?

—Sarah Parisi, Auburn, New York

Our beloved pets are indeed living longer due to the factors you mention and more. But this may not be noticeable because their life spans are so short compared to ours. Yet we humans and our pets are similar this way: Our life expectancies are increasing, but our life spans are not. This means that the outer limits of our own and our animal friends' life cycles have remained the same, but we are all more likely to get closer to reaching that limit.

Unlike humans, who share the same life span, the life spans of our animal companions vary widely according to their species and breeds, etc. While the longest-living cat ever recorded (a tabby mix named Creme Puff) died at the age of 38 years, canine life spans are much more defined by their breeds. The smallest dogs—who still don't live as long as cats—have much longer life spans than the largest dogs. As with the longest-living human ever recorded, who passed away at the age of 122, outliers are indicators of the life spans of their kinds.

Life expectancy, by contrast, refers to how much of that life span is likely to be attained, which is largely related to health and environmental factors, such as whether the animal is living in the wild. The same species of mouse, for example, may live for months or for years depending on its circumstances. That's not much different from us humans, is it?

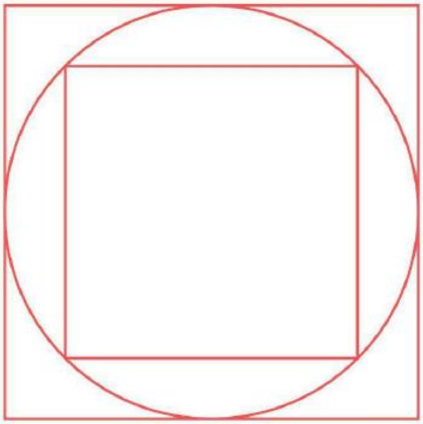
CLASSIC ASK MARILYN

THE SQUARE PUZZLE

NOVEMBER 21, 1999

The larger square in the illustration below has an area of 10 square inches. What's the area of the smaller square?

—Martin Gardner, Hendersonville, N.C.



Find solutions to Marilyn's puzzles and this week's Numbrix on the next page!

Send questions to
marilyn@parade.com

Numbrix®

Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

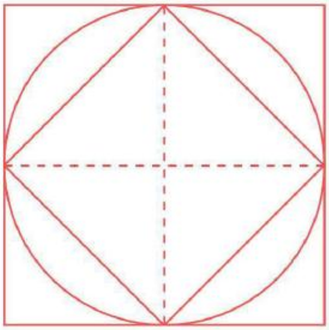
79				69				65
	77			56			61	
49	48						18	19
	43			32			11	
41				35				9

For more Numbrix puzzles, go to **Parade.com/numbrix**.

Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

SOLUTIONS



THE SQUARE PUZZLE

The answer to the question is 5 square inches, which you can discover using only insight and no math at all. How to do it? When we mentally rotate the inner square inside the circle, we can see that it occupies exactly half of each of the four parts that make up the entire outer square! Half of 10 square inches = 5 square inches.

Numbrix®

April 23, 2023

79	78	71	70	69	68	67	66	65
80	77	72	73	56	57	60	61	64
81	76	75	74	55	58	59	62	63
50	51	52	53	54	23	22	21	20
49	48	27	26	25	24	17	18	19
46	47	28	1	2	3	16	15	14
45	44	29	30	31	4	5	12	13
42	43	38	37	32	33	6	11	10
41	40	39	36	35	34	7	8	9

CAN YOU NAME IT? (QUIZ FROM P. 6)

1. **D.** "You had me at 'hello,'" is the simple, emotional line that Dorothy (Renée Zellweger) delivers to Jerry (Tom Cruise) after he's given a long, passionate love speech in *Jerry Maguire*.

2. **F.** Who other than Rose (Betty White) in *The Golden Girls* could utter her mother's ridiculous advice— "My mother always used to say: The older you get, the better you get. Unless you're a banana."—with such conviction?

3. **G.** That's Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) expressing his astonishment at the appearance of Cousin Eddie (Randy Quaid) in *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*: "If I woke up tomorrow with my head sewn to the carpet, I wouldn't be more surprised than I am right now."

4. **H.** "There's nothing simpler than avoiding people you don't like. Avoiding one's friends—that's the real test." That was just one of the sharp witticisms uttered by *Downton Abbey*'s acerbic Lady Violet Crawley (Maggie Smith).

5. **B.** That's Mortimer Brewster (Cary Grant) muttering about his family in Frank Capra's outrageously amusing *Arsenic and Old Lace* in 1944: "Insanity runs in my family. It practically gallops."

6. **I.** Aging actress Elise Elliot (Goldie Hahn) tells it like it is in *The First Wives' Club*: "There are only three ages for a woman in Hollywood: babe, district attorney and *Driving Miss Daisy*."

7. **A.** That quote—"I'm not superstitious, but I'm a little stitious."—came from the mouth of word-mangling boss Michael Scott (Steve Carell) in *The Office*.

8. **E.** Always-dieting fashion assistant Emily Charlton (Emily Blunt) was serious about fitting into those Paris fashions when she said, "I'm just one stomach flu away from my goal weight," in *The Devil Wears Prada*.

9. **K.** Slacker-in-chief Homer Simpson shared that bit of wisdom—"Trying is the first step toward failure."—on *The Simpsons*.

10. **C.** Travis Bickle (Robert De Niro) was talking to himself in the mirror when he uttered the famous line "You talkin' to me?" in Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*.

11. **L.** That's clothes horse Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker) sharing her money-management tips in *Sex and the City*: "I like my money right where I can see it: hanging in my closet."

12. **J.** Of course you got this one! Jenny (Ali MacGraw) said, "Love means never having to say you're sorry," to her beloved, preppy Oliver (Ryan O'Neal) in *Love Story*, the 1970's movie based on the novel by Erich Segal. The line has been celebrated—and ridiculed—for decades.

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